

4 Ways to Prevent an AED Failure

by **Brady B. McLaughlin, MS, NREMT**
CEO & Founder | AED365

Lifesaving devices must be maintained and ready to rescue at a moment's notice. Failure is not an option, yet some automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will not function in an emergency due to poor maintenance, neglect, missing components, or even damage. How can you practically help ensure the AED nearest you is ready to save lives - even your own?

1 Follow all manufacturer guidelines

Yeah - we know most of us may not pay close attention to user manuals, technical writings, and the like - but here, it MATTERS! The AED manufacturers have designed these devices to work under a specific set of conditions. For example, each AED has certain operating temperature ranges, dust/water penetration ratings, and other specifics that must be considered when using and storing the AED. Read your user / owner manual for specific direction on how to best maintain and AED and ensure it works in an emergency.

2 Track and replace all expiring batteries & pads

An AED relies on its battery system to deliver a powerful shock to treat the heart - if that battery is dead, so is the patient. Pads are made with a hydrogel (water-based) solution that can dry out when expired. Any successful AED program must maintain current batteries, pads, and spares of each to ensure the AED is able to function as intended, appropriately analyze the heart rhythm, and if needed, deliver a shock to a person in sudden cardiac arrest.

3 Conduct in-person inspections of your AED

Each AED is required by the manufacturer to be inspected on a regular basis to ensure the AED and its components are present and ready. Most AEDs require a monthly visual inspection, but some such as the Heartsine samaritan series require checks as frequently as once per week. Just like checking the brakes, engine, and other systems of



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your vehicle, it's vitally important to check your AED according to standards. In-person, visual inspections also boost confidence and the comfort level in using the device by the person checking the AED. The best way to complete these checks is using a verifiable method that logs your visual inspections, the status of the AED, batteries, pads, and accessories in a format that you can access anytime remotely should a question or incident arise. If you identify an error light, chirping sound, or if anything else is out of place, contact your AED program manager, AED distributor, or AED manufacturer for immediate assistance.

4 Develop and follow an AED response plan

Failing to plan is planning to fail. Every AED should be an integral part of your organization's AED response plan should a sudden cardiac arrest event occur. If someone collapses in your facility, what is the current response plan? Who is tasked with calling 9-1-1, retrieving the AED, performing high-quality CPR, maintaining scene safety, directing in first responders, and leading the response efforts? Are the AEDs in clearly marked areas with signage and ease of access in compliance with American with Disabilities Act standards? All of these components as well as EMS agency notification of where each AED is located are critical pieces of a well-developed response plan. Involve your local fire, EMS, and responding public safety officers in the plan design as well as other stakeholders and your own safety team if you have one. Drill and exercise this plan on a regular basis to ensure everyone is prepared to execute should a real incident arise. After all, if anyone forgets to retrieve an AED during an incident - or doesn't know where the nearest AED is located - the AED response plan has failed and the patient's chance of survival is negatively impacted.

About AED 365: *At AED 365, our sole focus is keeping your AED program alive. Our powerful AED program management technology gives you peace of mind that your entire AED program is ready to respond when seconds count. With up-to-the-minute AED location tracking, medical direction at the touch-of-a-button, and unmatched customer service, AED 365 is your total management solution to compliance, tracking, and overall readiness. We created AED 365 with one goal in mind: keeping your AED program alive.*

To make this happen, we have seamlessly engineered a complete set of iOS and online hub AED program management solutions entirely with the end-user in mind. Our teams are passionate about keeping AED 365 simple yet compliant so that you can focus on everything else life has to offer.

Contact us today to get started on a 45-day free trial.