

# ALERT – AED Maintenance Program

*Accessing Information and Resources - Just one of the benefits of Membership with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.*

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CBC Canada recently reported a growing concern surrounding the fact that many Canadian recreation facilities and schools have installed "Public Access Defibrillators (AEDs)" and are failing to regularly inspect and maintain these important life saving devices.

[www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2012/05/03/defibrillators.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2012/05/03/defibrillators.html)

Documents obtained by CBC through Access to Information showed 562 reports to Health Canada between 2007 and January 2012 of [incidents with defibrillators](#). In 102 cases, the devices wouldn't power on or turned off unexpectedly. Nine of the patients died.

The most important aspect of any AED program is an active system of controls and maintenance protocols that will continually monitor overall compliance and readiness. AED owners should refer to the AED manufacturer for guidance regarding maintaining their AED. Recommendations for inspection timetables, cleaning, and the specific maintenance program may vary depending on the type of unit.

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (ORFA) wishes to remind members and the industry at large of the importance of maintaining AEDs, and further recommends that AED inspection be set at no less than the same legislative obligation for monthly general inspection requirements and annual detailed review for fire extinguishers

#### **Inspections should include, but not be limited to:**

- Physically inspect the defibrillator for condition. Check to see if there are signs of damage or operational issue. Staff should be trained to understand what "blinking lights" or "noises" coming from an AED mean.
- Inspect the accessories used during an emergency to verify they are still there and are not damaged or missing. If any of these accessories are missing they should be immediately replaced.
- Clean the equipment as per the manufacturers recommendations.
- Check the expiration date of the AED pads and batteries.
- Similar to a fire extinguisher, your AED should also have a visible test inspection record for both staff and public awareness of inspection.

#### **Additional References:**

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs): Guidelines for Recreation Facilities [> More](#)  
Health Canada's Defibrillator Documents [> More](#)

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The [Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.](#) (ORFA) was incorporated in 1947 as a provincially-recognized, not-for-profit, volunteer driven recreation organization to be the leader in the recreation facility profession. The mission of ORFA is to provide leadership in the development and delivery of innovative training and education programs, value-added services, and quality products for the benefit of the recreation facility profession. The ORFA serves as the National Head Office of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council.