

By this time of year most outdoor recreation facilities have closed up for the winter. Properly storing a seasonally used AED (automated external defibrillator) in the northeast is very important for the life of the device. Here are a few tips:

IF THE DEVICE MAY BE NEEDED DURING THE OFF SEASON **DO NOT** FOLLOW THE BELOW TIPS!!!

-Move the device into a climate controlled area. The pads have a conductive gel. Repeated freezing and thawing of the pads can cause an issue.

-Remove the battery. It will give you longer battery life. Most AEDs run self-diagnostic checks on the device every 24 hours. If the unit is in storage it will drain some energy from the battery. Storing an AED in freezing temperatures with the battery in place will also cause the unit to detect a malfunction while doing its self-check. The battery will then quickly drain trying to alert you to the issue.

AED Manufacturer Update

Over the past year there have been several mergers of medical device companies. Several AEDs are no longer in manufacture or are planning to be phased out. The companies are required to honor the warranties (usually between 5-10 years depending on the device) but parts can become an issue.

If you own:

Physio-Control CR-Plus or Lifepak Express

Cardiac Science G3

You are going to want to plan to replace them if they are near the end of their warranty.

Replacing AEDs and Ordering Parts

If you need a new AED or pads/batteries ORDER THEM EARLY. Covid-19 has created a huge problem in the global supply chain. Almost all the devices are assembled in the United States but the parts come from overseas. Many of the manufacturing plants have also switched to making other medical device parts such as ventilators to deal with Covid.

NOT ALL AEDS ARE THE SAME!

If the unit is going to be used inside almost any of them are OK. If the unit is going to be near moisture/water or sand some are built better than others. Don't just buy a unit based on price but where it will be used. Some of the less expensive units actually function better in harsher environments.

The Red Cross is a distributor for most of the AED companies. They ship straight from the manufacturer who then makes a donation to the Red Cross. If you need AEDs or parts please let me know as soon as possible. You want to get the order in early so that it will get fulfilled.

If you need anything else training or safety related please feel free to reach out to Cait Wexler at (215) 260-7657 or cait.waxler@redcross.org