

Lippert Components: Ready to help save lives.

Why one of the industry's fastest growing companies chose Powerheart® AEDs – and why you should join them.



“The new Powerheart® G5 AEDs make it possible for our employees to respond quickly and effectively if a co-worker or visitor suffers sudden cardiac arrest.”

Lippert Components, a wholly owned subsidiary of Drew Industries, is a tier-1 supplier of premium components to the recreational vehicle, manufactured housing, trailer, bus, marine, and heavy truck industries. One of the fastest growing companies in North America, Lippert employs more than 7,500 people at facilities across Europe, United States and Canada.

In the company’s busy manufacturing environment, employee and customer safety is a major concern. That’s why Health and Safety Director Mr Erick Click took a big-picture approach to setting up a comprehensive automatic external defibrillator (AED) program.

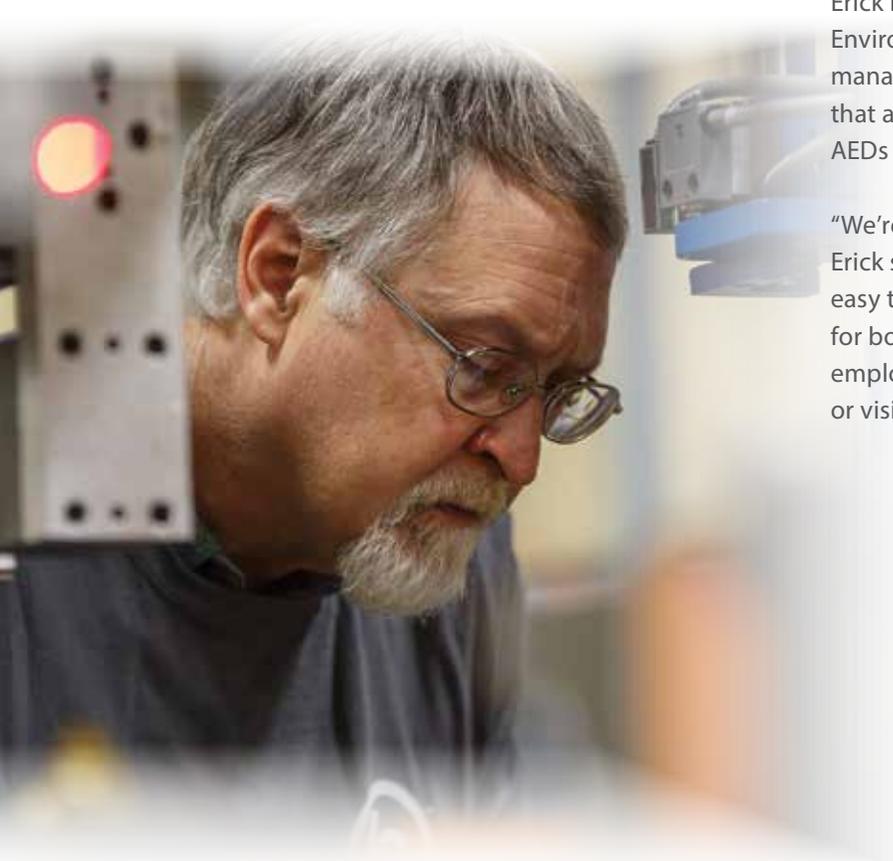
An approach that was further prompted after a near-tragedy.

In May 2013 an employee at a Lippert facility in Goshen, Indiana, suffered sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). There was no AED nearby but co-workers trained in CPR came to the rescue. By performing the emergency procedure with chest compressions they were able to buy some time until an ambulance arrived with an AED. Thanks to these quick responses, the employee was saved. The close call inspired the company to develop a plan to put AEDs in every facility.

“A supervisor performed CPR and, fortunately, paramedics with an AED arrived in time,” Erick said. “We realised that we could improve our response by having more AEDs on site and immediately available.”

At the time, Lippert had AEDs in place at some, but not all, of its locations. In the midst of rapid expansion, it had not yet assessed the AED programs at facilities it was acquiring. Erick led a companywide evaluation that involved Lippert’s Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) team and local management teams across the organisation. As a result of that assessment project, the company bought Powerheart G5 AEDs for all 45 Lippert locations.

“We’re committed to protecting workers in our facilities,” Erick said. “The new Powerheart G5 AEDs are exceptionally easy to use, with fully automatic shock delivery and prompts for both AED use and CPR. They’ll make it possible for our employees to respond quickly and effectively if a co-worker or visitor suffers SCA.”



FOUR FACTORS WHEN CONSIDERING A MULTI-FACILITY AED PROGRAM

So what does Erick recommend for companies with facilities in multiple locations? Four considerations:

- 1. Ease-of-use.** “We wanted an AED that was going to be easy for employees, established or new, to use with minimal training, the Powerheart G5 offers step-by-step auditory prompts, plus visual directions on an electronic screen” said Erick.

In addition, the G5 offers multilingual capabilities, enabling Lippert to deploy the devices at facilities where many employees are native speakers of Spanish and French. Touching a button changes the voice prompts from English to an alternate language without restarting or delaying the rescue.

- 2. Dependability.** The Powerheart G5 is built to last, with an 8-year warranty and a 4-year full operational performance guarantee on the medical-grade battery. The AED has been tested to military standards and features an IP55 rating, ensuring a high level of protection against dust and water.
- 3. Ease of maintenance.** The Powerheart G5 has a highly visible Rescue Ready indicator that confirms rescue status and confirms that the internal circuitry, medical-grade battery, and defibrillation pads have passed daily, weekly, and monthly self-tests. When it’s nearing time to replace a battery, the Rescue Ready® indicator turns red and sounds an alert.
- 4. AED Program Management.** With continuous changes and the opening of new locations, Lippert wanted a way to track their AEDs and rather than assigning an employee to design, implement, and maintain this program, the company implemented Rescue Ready® Services to manage their AED Program. The solution from Cardiac Science manages compliance, training, AED tracking, and maintenance for the company’s entire AED program.

Why is it important? Per The Resuscitation Council (UK)¹: *Defibrillation within 3–5 min of collapse can produce survival rates as high as 50–70%. This can be achieved through public access defibrillation, when a bystander uses a nearby AED to deliver the first shock. Each minute of delay to defibrillation reduces the probability of survival to hospital discharge by 10%. In the UK, fewer than 2% of victims have an AED deployed before the ambulance arrives.*

HOW SERIOUS IS THE RISK OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST?

According to the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) approximately 350,000 people suffer a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) every year in Europe, or 1,000 people each day. SCA is triggered by an abrupt, unpredictable electrical malfunction in the heart causing an irregular heartbeat.

Survival rates from SCA remain low because, in many instances, without the immediate shock from a defibrillator or AED, the consequences are often fatal.

Only by having an AED nearby, and employees prepared to use it, can a company respond effectively to a SCA incident on its premises.

¹ Adult basic life support and automated external defibrillation*. Gavin Perkins, Mick Colquhoun, Charles Deakin, Anthony Handley, Chris Smith, Michael Smyth. The Resuscitation Council (UK). Retrieved from <https://www.resus.org.uk/resuscitation-guidelines/adult-basic-life-support-and-automated-external-defibrillation>.