

ON DUTY AND READY TO RESCUE.

AED save rates at Stone Mountain Park are considerably higher than the national average. Here's why.



“Self-testing assures us that our AEDs will be ready when we need them.”

Stone Mountain Park, just outside Atlanta, is one of the busiest state parks in the United States. Every year, more than 5 million people enjoy the park’s amenities including a theme park, hotels, campgrounds, and a lake for swimming and fishing. The park covers more than 3,200 acres of land.

AEDS ARE KEY TO PARK SAFETY

Stone Mountain Park has a Department of Public Safety that provides law enforcement and fire services to the community. In keeping with the challenges of protecting recreational visitors, the department has specialized rescue capabilities that include a helicopter, a mountain rescue team, a lake patrol, and a dive rescue team. All of the department’s first responders go on duty equipped with a Powerheart® automated external defibrillator (AED).

A look at Stone Mountain’s rescue data shows that the department’s focus on readiness in its AED program is paying off. While national survival rates for witnessed sudden cardiac arrest are between 10 and 30 percent¹, according to the American Heart Association (AHA), Stone Mountain Park has a 70 percent save rate².

“We have achieved an average response time of three minutes to any incident,” said Chuck Kelley, Chief of Police and Fire for Stone Mountain Park. “If it’s sudden cardiac arrest, we’re ready with Powerheart AEDs. They’re lightweight, portable, and easy to use. Then there is the self-testing, which assures us that our AEDs will be ready when we need them.”

Stone Mountain Park purchased their first public safety AED in 1988. Kelley recalls it as “weighing about 40 pounds.” But within a week, that cumbersome AED had saved a woman’s life.

“A guest at the hotel went into sudden cardiac arrest,” Kelley said. “We got there with the AED, we administered one shock, and revived her. Because we were equipped with an AED, she survived.”

That initial success convinced the park that AEDs were necessary public safety equipment. Today, the longstanding Stone Mountain Park AED program helps save lives every year. Recent rescues include two joggers who suffered cardiac arrest while running, as well as a state park employee who collapsed while walking out to her car in the parking lot.

“We got there with the AED, it delivered four shocks, and that saved her,” Kelley said. “She survived, had heart surgery, and is back at work. She has become such an AED advocate that she has begun doing fundraisers to buy AEDs for nearby communities.”

1. <http://www.sca-aware.org/sca-news/aha-releases-2015-heart-and-stroke-statistics-about-your-aed-program>.

2. Quote from Chuck Kelley, Stone Mountain Chief of Police and Fire, from interview on May 30, 2017.

3. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics - 2013 Update online on December 12, 2012. American Heart Association.

HOW SERIOUS IS THE RISK OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST?

Statistics from the American Heart Association are grim: Each year, more than 326,000 people in the U.S. die from sudden cardiac arrest. The survival rate for people who suffer outside-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest ranges from 10 to 30 percent³.

Survival rates remain low because, in many instances, there is no AED nearby. By the time an ambulance equipped with an AED arrives, the critical window for restoring the heartbeat may have been missed.

Only by having well-maintained AEDs available, and first responders who are prepared to use them, can a public safety department respond effectively to incidents of sudden cardiac arrest.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AED PROGRAMS

Are you considering adding an AED program into your organization? Want similar results to those that have been so effective at Stone Mountain Park? If so, here are three key considerations:

1. Readiness

The Powerheart® AED has a highly visible Rescue Ready® indicator that confirms daily rescue status by testing its internal circuitry. The medical-grade battery and rescue pads are also tested each day for both presence and functionality. Most competitor AEDs self-test only weekly and then only for presence—not functionality.⁴

When it's nearing time to replace a battery or rescue pad, the Rescue Ready indicator turns red and sounds an alert. The highly visible indicator is your sign that the AED has passed daily, weekly, and monthly self-tests.

2. Ease-of-use

Fully automatic: Once the defibrillation pads are attached, the Powerheart AED is completely automatic. It determines if a shock is required and administers one if it is needed.

Clear, easy guidance: Voice prompts and text-screen prompts provide step-by-step instructions, from attaching

AED pads to administering CPR. In addition, Intellisense™ CPR Feedback provides Powerheart® G5 AED rescuers with up to four corrective text/voice prompts if their CPR compression rate and depth are outside the 2015 AHA-acceptable parameters.

Dual language: The Powerheart G5 AED offers dual-language capabilities. Touching a button changes the voice prompts from English to a second, preselected language without restarting or delaying the rescue.

3. Dependability

Powerheart AEDs are built to last, with 7- and 8-year warranties (depending on the model) and a four-year full operational performance guarantee on medical-grade batteries. The Powerheart G5 AED can be used in an office or in rugged environments. It features an IP 55 rating, ensuring a high level of protection against dust and water. This provides significant advantage for public safety departments working in an outdoor environment.



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- Stone Mountain Park Public Safety

4. ZOLL AED Plus Administrator's Guide, REF 9650-0301-01 Rev YA; May, 2017; HeartSine 350P/360P/450P User Manual H032-019-600-2; July 2017; LifePak CRPlus Express Operating Instructions PN3201686-015; July 2014.

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RESCUE READY[®]

Every Day.

