



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



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PRESS RELEASE

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The Boatworks Mall Public Access AED Provided by North Tahoe Fire

Tahoe City, Calif. Dec. 11, 2019 –North Tahoe Fire and The Boatworks Mall are working to increase the survivability of a cardiac arrest by installing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the popular shopping center in Tahoe City.

The Boatworks Mall, located at 760 North Lake Tahoe Blvd., is the only enclosed lakefront shopping mall on the North Shore hosting year-round shopping and dining. The mall houses approximately 20 restaurants and specialty shops, including Jake's on the Lake and Hacienda Del Lago. The popularity of the shopping center makes it a prime location for the life-saving AED, which is a sophisticated but easy-to-use automated device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and deliver a life-saving electric shock to the heart in cardiac arrest, restoring the normal heart rhythm. AEDs are designed to be used by the general public, including bystanders with no medical training, by giving voice prompts to guide the user through the process.

A person who suffers Sudden Cardiac Arrest outside of a hospital has a 5% chance of surviving. Clinical studies have shown the survival rate increases from 30% to 70% when an AED is available and used on a victim within three minutes from the onset of a cardiac arrest.

More than 460,000 Americans die each year from Sudden Cardiac Arrest, making it a major unsolved public health problem and a leading cause of death in the United States. The most common cause of Sudden Cardiac Arrest is ventricular fibrillation - when the heart's electrical impulses become irregular and the heart is unable to pump oxygen-rich blood throughout the body.

Vinton Hawkins, General Counsel for Boatworks Mall, accepted the AED on the mall's behalf at the North Tahoe Fire December Board Meeting. "A special thanks goes to the North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Boards of Directors for approving the funding to grow this important program," said Battalion Chief of EMS Scott Sedgwick. "It is through their support that we can increase cardiac arrest survival in our community."

NTFPD will continue the process of providing two AED units to locations throughout the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District and the North Tahoe Fire Protection District every year. Last June, NTFPD provided an AED to the First Baptist Church of Tahoe City, and earlier this year an AED was installed at Commons Beach in Tahoe City. AED locations are determined by the number of incidents at the location or where large numbers of people gather.

To learn skills to help recognize cardiac arrest, get emergency care on the way quickly, and ways to help a person until EMS arrives, visit the American Heart Association at www.cpr.heart.org.



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North Tahoe Fire Battalion Chief of EMS Scott Sedgwick and Boatworks Mall General Counsel Vinton Hawkins pose with the AED, now available to the public at the popular Boatworks Mall in Tahoe City.

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