CASE STUDY

Federal Aviation Administration Adopts WorkSafe™ SCA Response Program to Save Lives, Increase SCA Response Rates from 2% to 100%

It's 6:30 a.m. at the American Airlines Training Center in Dallas, Texas. Federal Aviation Administration Inspectors Ron Noe and Ray Trevino are enjoying a cup of coffee when they hear "someone snoring" and decide to check it out. They find 50-year-old American Airlines Pilot Captain Matt Taylor on the ground, struggling to breathe.

The inspectors had recently completed Emergency University's Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) response training program and knew exactly what to do. They assess Captain Taylor, initiate CPR, grab the nearby AED, attach the pads, and watch as the shock is delivered. Moments later, Captain Taylor slowly opens his eyes.

"It was amazing. Within about a minute, I could see the life come back into his face," Inspector Noe recounted afterward.

The Problem: Only 2% of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Victims Receive an Effective Response

Although corporations and government agencies authorize thousands of dollars for CPR/AED training annually, only two percent of cardiac arrest victims nationwide receive an effective response (bystander CPR and the attachment of an AED). This lack of response is staggering considering 40 to 50 million people enroll in CPR/AED classes each year, at a cost of more than $2.5 billion dollars annually.

SCAs are the leading cause of death in working-age adults. In fact, one American collapses of an SCA every two minutes – at work, in public places or at home. Fifty percent of SCA victims have no history of cardiovascular disease at all; Captain Taylor was known for his commitment to fitness and had no prior cardiac history. When FAA Manager of Employee Safety and Health Services Dr. Tom Holloway learned these sobering facts, he knew it was time the FAA had a proven emergency response plan that saves lives – especially since first responders rarely arrive within the critical four-minute survival window.

"We are grateful to the FAA administrator and his executive team for their support, and to the thousands of FAA volunteers who have invested their time in this vital [Emergency University] program to give their coworkers a second chance at life," said Holloway.

The Solution: WorkSafe™ – a Groundbreaking SCA Program with a 100% Response Rate

Studies show that people who respond to an SCA are under significant stress and will remember only a few basic principles. The WorkSafe program instills confidence by using a synergistic blend of interactive multimedia training experiences and hands-on skills validation classes. Trainees practice in a simulated environment with limited risk until they're comfortable with the entire response sequence.

In lieu of traditional AED program management, the FAA incorporated Emergency University's innovative SCA response training across 198 air traffic towers, air route traffic control centers, research facilities and administrative offices. Over the last five years, Emergency University has trained 20,000 FAA employees, resulting in a 100 percent response rate.

In addition to teaching CPR and AED skills, Emergency University incorporates behavioral science principles to show trainees how to respond in a real-life emergency. For example, FAA employees learn how to overcome cultural barriers about touching and undressing others, emotional barriers about death and performing in public, and organizational barriers about how to work as a team in a real-life emergency. The program also ensures trainees are familiar with assessing actual people (not just training manikins), and that the AED equipment used in the classroom closely resembles the equipment at the FAA locations. The result? Confident employees who are ready to respond to an SCA victim when the time comes.

The Benefit: Provide a Predictably Successful SCA Response that Saves Lives

Since incorporating WorkSafe, trained FAA teams have responded to eight real-life SCA victims. One hundred percent of these victims received an effective response – in stark contrast to the national average of two percent. The probability of surviving an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is at least doubled for victims who receive bystander CPR. And SCA victims who receive bystander CPR and the benefit of a shock from an AED within four minutes *quadruple* their chance of survival. Based on decades of research and experience from medical professionals and educators from UCSF and Stanford, WorkSafe is a proven way to save lives.



"Had it not been for Emergency University-trained inspectors, my daughter would never have known what it would be like to be held by her father."

- American Airlines Pilot Captain Matt Taylor

About Emergency University

In 1989, Emergency University staff doubled SCA survival in San Francisco when they designed, launched and tested the first large urban AED program in the US. Two years later their program methodology and recommendations were adopted by California's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as statewide guidelines for training, reporting and quality assurance in AEDs. Since then the company has managed thousands of non-medical personnel at major corporations and government agencies including Zynga, Procter & Gamble, Norfolk Southern, Google, CSX and several others.

Call us at 1-866-AED-HELP or email info@emergencyuniversity.com.

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