

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Sumterville, Florida – Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO) has taken steps to help insure that its employees, member/customers, vendors and guests are protected from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) when at SECO facilities. The Co-op has installed a total of 52 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) made by Cardiac Science of Bothwell, Washington in SECO facilities throughout its service territory.

SECO CEO, Jim Duncan, said, “According to the American Heart Association, 50 percent of the 1,000 North Americans who die from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) every day have no prior knowledge that they had heart disease. And according to the Occupational Health & Safety Administration, 13 percent of all workplace fatalities result from sudden cardiac arrest. With our new AEDs, we’re sending a clear message to our community: We care about your heart safety and we’re doing something about it.”

The only definitive treatment for SCA is a defibrillation shock — an electrical pulse through the heart — to restore a normal heart rhythm. The chance of an SCA victim’s survival decreases by seven to ten percent for every minute that passes. Therefore, defibrillation must be administered within the first few minutes of SCA in order to be effective.

Dave Marver, president and chief executive officer of Cardiac Science reiterated, “A shock from a readily accessible defibrillator is just about the only way to save an SCA victim. The Cardiac Science AED is really easy to use because it includes easy-to-follow voice instructions to guide rescuers through the process. We hope others are inspired to follow SECO’s lead by protecting people wherever they work, play, or pray.”

SECO Director of Communications, Barry Bowman, said, “All of our employees have been trained in the use of these new AEDs and the devices have been placed at strategic locations in all of our buildings for ready use. I know our older customers, in particular, will feel comforted by this initiative because regardless of which office they are visiting there is effective help close at hand should they suffer sudden cardiac arrest.”

The American Heart Association and National Center for Health Statistics note that with earlier defibrillation, 40,000 more lives could be saved each year. For more info on the Cardiac Science AEDs contact www.cardiacscience.com.

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