



CATHOLIC
MUTUAL GROUP

Spring 2025

COMMITMENT + EXPERTISE + STABILITY

The Catholic Mutual Connection

The Life-Saving Importance of AEDs

With renewed attention on the critical role Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) play in saving lives, now is an ideal time to review best practices for AED use and accessibility. In any cardiac emergency, the first and most crucial step is always to call 911. However, having an AED readily available can significantly increase the chance of survival while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.



Churches and schools serve as centers for worship, education, and community. When large groups gather, the potential for medical emergencies increases. In such moments, access to an AED can truly mean the difference between life and death.

The adoption of AEDs has steadily increased in recent years, thanks partly to growing public awareness of their effectiveness. Despite this, many states do not currently mandate AEDs in public spaces, underscoring the need for individual institutions to take proactive measures.

If your facility already has an AED, ensure that it is visible and easily accessible and that staff and volunteers are trained. Proper knowledge and preparedness are essential in responding effectively to an emergency. Refer to this [CARES document](#) for detailed guidance on AED usage, including special considerations and maintenance tips.

The cost of not having an AED available far outweighs the financial investment required to obtain and maintain one. Our partners at LifeGuard MD offer helpful resources, including maintenance reminders and support. To get an AED, contact LifeGuard MD at 877-868-4141 or visit www.lifeguardmdusa.com. Catholic Mutual members are eligible for preferred pricing through LifeGuard MD. For additional information, please reach out to your Risk Management Representative.

Safety Tip



As warmer weather approaches, it becomes an ideal time to address maintenance tasks that were postponed during winter. While volunteer assistance is offered with good intentions, it is essential to understand the associated liabilities before you accept them.

One area of increasing concern is the proper operation of aerial platforms and lifts. Although these tools can offer a convenient solution for tasks such as replacing lightbulbs or hanging signage, they must only be operated by authorized personnel who have received thorough training and can identify potential hazards.

Also, we recommend reviewing our Portable Power Tools Checklist and Backhoe/Front-Loader Safety Guide to ensure safe and compliant equipment usage.

Preparing for Spring Storm Season

Spring's unpredictable weather patterns serve as an annual reminder of the importance of preparedness. While storms may be expected, the need for a comprehensive response plan can often be overlooked.

Several CARES resources are available to support your preparedness efforts. A recommended starting point is our [Emergency Preparedness Overview document](#). This guide provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to:

- Define the chain of command and key decision-makers
- Identify the alarm system in use
- Outline first aid and medical response protocols
- Describe the communication systems to be employed
- Detail evacuation procedures

This plan should be reviewed annually and updated to ensure accuracy and effectiveness.

Additional CARES documents offer valuable guidance on specific areas of emergency response, including:

- [Lightning Risk Evaluation Guide](#)
- [Power Interruption Pre-Planning Awareness](#)
- [Reduction of Lightning Exposure](#)
- [After the Storm – Facility Management](#)



We encourage you to [download the Emergency Response Procedures \(ERP\) app](#) to enhance your preparedness. The app allows for customization based on your diocese's specific needs, simplifies the storage of emergency contacts, and provides easy access to emergency protocols and best practices.

If you have any questions or need additional support, please contact your CMG Risk Management Representative.

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