Job site:	Date:
Foreman:	G.C.

## **SMOHIT Safety Sense**Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

## **Automated External Defibrillators**

- Every year in the United States alone, there are 220,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest. About 10,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur in the workplace.
- Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when ventricular fibrillation takes place or when the heart stops beating altogether. Ventricular fibrillation is an uncoordinated heart rhythm.
- Without immediate medical attention, a victim of sudden cardiac arrest may collapse, lose consciousness, become unresponsive, and die.
  Many people who are victims of sudden cardiac arrest have no prior history of heart disease and are stricken without warning.
- An automatic external defibrillator, or AED, is a compact, lightweight, and portable medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to restore the heart rhythm of a victim of sudden cardiac arrest.
- On-site AEDs save precious treatment time, and can improve survival odds because they can be used before emergency medical service personnel arrive.
- AEDs should be installed:
  - on the job site in convenient and easy-to-reach locations to ensure a response time within three to five minutes;
  - close to confined spaces:
  - o in areas where electric-powered devices are used; and
  - o on outdoor job sites where lightning may occur.
- If an AED is on your job site, inquire into training that may be available to ensure you are familiar with the AED if you ever need to use it.

## **Instructor Tips**

- Point out that heart rhythm in ventricular fibrillation may only be restored to normal by an electric shock.
- Point out to workers that causes of sudden cardiac arrest include heart attack, electrocution, and asphyxiation.

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Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.151, .266, 1926.50