

May 2017

Dear Community Partner,

Each year, EMTs across the United States use EMS Week to sponsor awareness events to keep communities safe and healthy. This year, EMS Week is May 21-27 and our theme is “EMS Strong: Always in Service.” Yankton County EMS invites you to keep our community safe by bringing in your AED for a check-up at our station (805 Capitol) on Friday, May 26 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

Yankton County EMS will provide you a **free** AED inspection to ensure it is working properly. This **free** inspection includes checking the batteries and the defibrillator patches to ensure they have not expired. In addition, we will have first aid equipment (gloves, rescue masks, scissors, etc.) available to add to your AED kits. Lastly, if you need new patches or batteries we will have supplier information so you can order new equipment at your expense.

Below are 2016 facts from the American Heart Association to highlight how important CPR and AEDs are to the community and to saving your life or the lives of your family, friends, co-workers or customers:

- Many victims of sudden cardiac arrest appear healthy with no known heart disease or other risk factors.
- Over 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur annually, and 70 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home.
- Statistically speaking, if called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely to be someone at home: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.
- Failure to act in a cardiac emergency can lead to unnecessary deaths.
- Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival, but only 46 percent of cardiac arrest victims get CPR from a bystander before professional help arrives.

Ensuring your AED works properly is vital to saving lives in our community. Help us celebrate EMS Week by joining us on Friday, May 26 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

If you are unable to join us for this event, please contact our office at 605.668.9033 and we will arrange a visit to check your AED. You can also email Daniel Prendable at Daniel@co.yankton.sd.us with any questions about this event.

Thank you for your support and making Yankton County “EMS Strong.”