



VITALS

Mike Szczygiel (Segal)
888-969-8033
meszczygiel@thomcoins.com

A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

ANOTHER AED RECALL

On February 3, 2010 Cardiac Science Corporation issued a worldwide recall for 12,200 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). This is a separate recall from the one issued in November, 2009.

The devices were manufactured between October 19, 2009 and January 15, 2010. Models included are:

- Powerheart 9300A, 9300E, 9300P, 9390A, 9390E
- Cardiovive 92532
- CardioLife 9200G and 9231

The devices were manufactured in a way which gives them the potential to fail during resuscitation. Fortunately the defect was discovered through internal quality systems, not by customer complaints. To determine if your device is subject to recall you may call: 888-402-2484, or visit <http://www.cardiacscience.com/AED195>.

All affected AEDs should immediately be removed from service. Cardiac Science will contact all involved customers by letter and begin shipping replacements, as soon as they are available, which is anticipated to be February, 15, 2010.

DEADLY ROADS NAMED

Using DOT data, the Scripps Howard News Service counted the number of deaths on every road in the United States. 562,712 fatal accidents which occurred between 1994 and 2008 were included. The 181 mile stretch of I-15 which connects Los Angeles and Las Vegas was the site for 834 crashes that killed 1,069 people. That's more than double the death count from any other road.

What's bad about the road? According to the California DOT, it's straight with great visibility. People start speeding and not paying attention. Half of the folks that died there weren't wearing seat-belts; a third of the crashes involved speeding; and, a quarter of the events involved drivers who had been drinking. On the other hand, lightly traveled areas such as small municipal streets and rural roads were the sites of 245,000 crashes that killed 265,000. State and county roads can have narrow shoulders and more curves than highways. Behavior comes into play, again. Fatalities on county roads were alcohol related 39% of the time, on state roads 31%. In 1994, 81% of fatal accidents involved drinking, speeding or failure to wear seat-belts. It dropped to 73% by 2008. Federal highway safety personnel are not re-assured by the drop between 1994 and 2008, because there is the growing threat of distracted driving secondary to the use of cell phones and texting.



Tired of hearing about cell phones? An insurer paid \$5 million dollars to settle a case in which a driver killed two bicyclists. The cyclists were riding to raise money for brain injury awareness. The driver of the car was initially charged with reckless homicide, but pleaded guilty to reckless driving. When she killed, she was talking on her cell phone. Can you hear me now?