

ZOLL®

CASE STUDY

Beating the Odds



It was a slow Monday night at the slots at Thunder Valley Casino Resort in Lincoln, California. But no matter the crowd or the time of day or night, the 2,800-machine casino always stacks security in its favor. Lucky for a 66-year-old gamer.

The casino guest hadn't even made it into the casino before he collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest in the parking garage. Two other guests spotted him between two cars. One ran into the casino to alert security while the other stayed with him as another guest began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Casino EMT/Security Officer Brandon VanDermyden heard the call of a "person laying on the ground" and sprang into action. When he heard the dispatcher's call, he immediately asked a colleague to grab the automated external defibrillator (AED) and medical bag and then headed up to the second floor. He says, "When you hear a person is down, that's the call that's likely going to need an AED."

When VanDermyden reached the second floor, a group of four waved him down. "An elderly woman was administering CPR," says VanDermyden. "She didn't have much strength, so there wasn't much quality CPR happening, though she had some background."

Within 30 seconds of the call, VanDermyden was checking for a pulse. He found none. Then he radioed, "Place a call to 911, CPR in progress," and took over CPR. When his fellow officer arrived with the ZOLL® AED Plus®, VanDermyden instructed him to attach the pads, and the AED began its analysis. When no shock was advised, VanDermyden resumed CPR.

Meanwhile, the fire department, which monitors the casino's radio frequency, heard VanDermyden's 911 request, and started heading to the casino even before the 911 call was made. Within a minute, just four minutes from when VanDermyden came onto the scene, the paramedics arrived and took over.

Winning-Quality CPR

The victim was unresponsive through 23 minutes of compressions. But the AED Plus was not. While no shock was advised, it did support the rescuers in administering high-quality CPR. Its Real CPR Help® technology, which gives rescuers real-time depth and rate feedback while delivering CPR, instructed them to "Push Harder."

"Firefighter EMTs respond to a lot of calls; they have a lot of experience," says VanDermyden. "It was strange to hear the AED say to push harder. The paramedic did, although at first he didn't realize where the instructions were coming from—he didn't expect them—and then it hit him and he pushed harder."

"When our medical director reviewed the quality of CPR on that call, it was outstanding. The depth and compression rate were great. I am confident that because of the quality of CPR, we saved the patient."

EMT/Officer Robert Holder

After one round of compressions and another "no shock" analysis from the AED, the paramedics intubated the victim, pushed three rounds of epinephrine, and continued compressions until he regained a pulse. The team then transported him to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

"Even people trained in quality CPR can benefit from additional electronic assistance," explains EMT/Officer Robert Holder. "The AED Plus pads and Real CPR Help® software are really what are saving people. They help us give the patient a better chance. Obviously, we can't save everyone. But we have a much better opportunity to save the ones who have a chance because of these tools." The casino chose the ZOLL AED Plus from among four different manufacturers based primarily on its Real CPR Help functionality.

"When our medical director reviewed the quality of CPR on that call, it was outstanding," adds Holder. "The depth and compression rate were great. I am confident that because of the quality of CPR, we saved the patient."

¹Mozaffarian D, et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics—2014 update: a report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2014;129(3):e28-e292.

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Security Program: Leaving Nothing to Chance

When it comes to security, the casino takes no chances.

A team of security personnel, including EMTs, roam the 275,000-square-foot gaming floor 24/7. Ten AED Plus devices are strategically placed around the facility. A medical director conducts mandatory monthly safety training for the EMTs and reviews all medical reports to help ensure the best outcomes. The casino also works with an outside safety management company, DiPietro & Associates, Inc., to oversee AED compliance and maintenance.

"We can respond anywhere on the property in give or take 60 seconds," says Holder. "And with a CAL FIRE station on property, primarily serving EMS/ALS care, paramedics can be on-scene within three to four minutes of our calling 911."

Even with the odds stacked against them—only 11% of victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the United States survive¹—Thunder Valley Casino Resort has saved two lives in two years. By leaving nothing to chance, the casino has a success rate of nearly 30%.

The ZOLL AED Plus, the first and only full-rescue AED that provides Real CPR Help® for depth and rate of chest compressions, audibly coaches rescuers with prompts such as "Push Harder" or "Good Compressions" during CPR.



For more information on the ZOLL AED Plus, please call 800-804-4356 or go to www.zoll.com/aedplus.

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