



Man collapses during wedding, saved by handy AED

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A wedding in Plymouth nearly turned tragic if it hadn't been for a handy AED device, group work, and quick thinking.

Family and friends were celebrating a wedding at hotel 1620 in Plymouth on Saturday when the bride's father collapsed, suffering a heart attack.

Luckily, a neighboring business had a defibrillator ready to go.

Wedding guests, first responders and even members of that nearby business all helped save one man's life.

As soon as the man collapsed, his nephew ran across the street to East Bay Grille, where Michael Minihane manages the bar.

"[A] young gentleman ran into rest inquiring as to whether or not we had an AED and very panicked, [so] I took him over to it, we unlocked it he and I ran across the street," said Minihane.

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The owner had just bought the device three months prior to the incident and had all managers trained to use it.

"It was a tough scene, it was an awful scene to walk into," said Minihane. "The whole group gathered around him, they were doing chest compressions and CPR."

They rushed the AED to the wedding, where police administered two shocks before firefighters arrived and assisted. Then, Brewster ambulance paramedics jumped in, delivering a third shock.

The bride's father left in the ambulance already breathing on his own as he was rushed to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Plymouth, where doctors inserted a stent into a blocked artery in his heart.

While he recovers, first responders are thanking those who helped them.

"CPR was being done and it was being done early and its truly in my opinion in my experience that makes a big difference," said Gary Somero.

Plymouth Fire Chief Ed Bradley says it was a team effort during the first critical seconds and minutes that saved a life. He urges other businesses to buy this life-saving device.

"National statistics say start bystander CPR and get a defibrillator on a person, they have a 90 percent chance of surviving," said Chief Bradley. "For every minute that goes by [that they] don't have [a] defibrillator available, the chances go down by 10 percent."

The bride's father too expressed his gratitude to everyone involved. His wife says there are a lot of other people to thank, and they wouldn't even know where to begin.
