

May 18, 2006

Several months ago I was at the casino in Maricopa, Arizona when I heard a "thud" next to me. A gentleman approximately 60 years of age had collapsed to the floor in the aisle next to where I was sitting. His color did not look good and he was taking agonal breaths. He had no carotid pulse and I promptly began CPR. Before I completed one full cycle of resuscitation, his breathing and pulse returned and his color improved.

He wanted to get up right away, but I insisted that he wait for the paramedics to arrive. His wife was also a nurse and very grateful that I was close by when her husband collapsed.

I spent two years of my career teaching CPR, but had rarely needed to use the skills I had learned. I was very glad that I had just renewed my CPR training with "CPR Rescuers" and everything was fresh in my mind. I was able to respond without hesitation because of the training I had received from their competent professionals.

This event has reinforced to me how much impact we as healthcare professionals have on the precious gift of life. Also, how important it is to pay attention in your CPR classes, because the life you save could be a loved one.

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