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Philips Healthcare Recalls 5,400 Defibrillators

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The Washington Post reports that Philips Healthcare is recalling more than 5000 external defibrillators due to a potential malfunction that could cause the defibrillator to stop working. No known injuries have yet been caused by the malfunction. Here are excerpts from the article:

Philips said only certain HeartStart FR2+ defibrillators are included in the voluntary recall. Those included are models M3860A and M3861A distributed by Philips and models M3840A and M3841A distributed by Laerdal Medical manufactured between May 2007 and January 2008.

The devices automatically analyze the heart rhythm and determines whether a defibrillation shock is needed. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the device instructs the responder to deliver defibrillation therapy.

The devices involved have been distributed around the world to fire departments, emergency medical services units, hospitals and other organizations, the company said.

It said customers who have questions or problems with the devices can call its customer service operation at 1-800-263-3342.

Philips said it has advised the U.S. Food & Drug Administration about its recall, and said any problems with use of the devices should be reported to the FDAs MedWatch Program.

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