



CSRMA ALERT

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Is Your Agency Considering Purchasing?

Each year nearly 500,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest. Preventing death caused by sudden cardiac arrest requires fast action and a critical sequence of events: early activation of the EMS system (calling 9-1-1), early CPR, early defibrillation and early advanced care at a medical facility. Administering CPR techniques and dialing 9-1-1 have been the way to respond to cardiac arrest in previous years, but the use of AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) is relatively new.

Traditionally, only highly-trained individuals in hospitals or EMS personnel used manual defibrillators. But technology has now made it possible for non-medical personnel to perform defibrillation in non-medical settings. AEDs equipped with an internal computer can interpret the heart rhythm to determine if a victim is in ventricular fibrillation (V-fib), a potentially fatal heart rhythm. If V-fib is indeed occurring, the unit instructs the user to press an activation button which causes defibrillation.

Before the advent of AEDs, 95% of sudden cardiac arrest victims died—even with first aid, rescue breathing and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. In contrast, defibrillation delivered within the first minutes saves the lives of up to 75% of cardiac arrest victims. Many large facilities such as airports, sports stadiums and large workplaces are installing AEDs to increase the chance of saving lives.

In order to evaluate whether your facility would benefit from an AED, consider the following:

- How many people are at your site? Large numbers of people increase the likelihood that an AED would need to be used.
- What is the response time of the local emergency response service to get to the furthest place on your site? Traffic conditions, elevators, stairs, gates all can cost valuable time to negotiate.
- What type of workforce or visitor demographics does your facility encounter? Consider the health, age, fitness and stress levels of the people.
- Are workplace hazards present such as electrical or confined spaces? Electrical shock or asphyxiation could induce heart fibrillation.
- Is the facility in a remote area? Can an emergency response team reach these areas in time?
- Does your facility have an emergency response team already in place? If these teams are needed, it's a good bet an AED would some day be used.

The CSRMA [ONLINE RISK CONTROL RESOURCE CENTER](#) has numerous resources to answer your questions on issues such as:

- Agency liability and Good Samaritan Laws
- What's involved in setting up an AED Program
- What training is required
- How AEDs work
- Where to purchase

A-Z Risk Control Resource Center

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Accountability	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
Acetylene/Fuel Safety	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
Aerial Lift Devices	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
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Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
Back Safety	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials
Boat Safety	Web Resources	Regulations	Programs/Training Materials

Web Resources

[Discussion and Overview of AEDs](#)

[American Heart Association - AED Program Q&A](#)

[American Heart Association - AED Program Implementation Guide](#)

[AED Resource Page](#)

Regulations

[California Civil Code Section 1714.21 - Good Samaritan Law Addressing AEDs](#)

CONTACT YOUR AGENCY'S CSRMA ONLINE RISK CONTROL RESOURCE CENTER SUPERVISOR TO ACCESS THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE

For More Information, Please Contact David Patzer, CSRMA Risk Control Advisor at 707.373.9709 or at losscontrol@sbcglobal.net