

Background

Sudden cardiac arrest claims about 460,000 American lives each year. The most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest is ventricular fibrillation—when the heart’s electrical impulses become irregular and the heart is unable to pump oxygen-rich blood through the body. If left untreated, death occurs within minutes. Because sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in our nation, it is a major public health problem. Traditionally the ability to defibrillate in the prehospital setting was solely the responsibility of EMS personnel. Survival was dependent on early activation of the 911 system and early arrival of EMS personnel. Today, the new generation of defibrillators, Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), make it possible for lay people to provide defibrillation. The new AEDs are safe, effective, low maintenance and easy to use.



Elements of an PAD Program

- **Physician Oversight:** The US Food and Drug Administration has cleared AEDs for public use with a physician's prescription. The main responsibility of the physician is to oversee the initial implementation process.
- **Liability Protection:** The state has passed a series of bills and has authorized development of regulations that help to greatly reduce liability concerns with regard to PAD programs. The Good Samaritan Laws give critical protection to the Automated External Defibrillation (AED) trainer, the prescribing physician, the AED owner, and individuals who use an AED in rendering emergency care.
- **Designation and training of on-site responders:** At least one employee per AED unit must complete a training course in CPR/AED that complies with the state and local regulations. The state and local requirements also describe curriculums, training organizations and renewal intervals.
- **Program Coordinator:** This is someone that is on-site who can be responsible for day-to-day activities of the program
- **Notification of Local EMS:** EMS notification forms available on the web or by calling the EMS Agency at :
(925) 646-4690.
Notification of the EMS Agency when the AED is used is also required.



Emergency Medical Services Agency

Public

Access

Defibrillation



Saving Lives Through Early Defibrillation

In partnership with

American Heart Association

Contra Costa County Public Access Defibrillation

Statistics Support AEDs

Seventy-five percent of the people who die suddenly of heart disease, often without previous symptoms, are outside of a hospital setting. Statistics show that fewer than 7% of those who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital will survive. Automated External Defibrillators, called AEDs, have been shown to increase a person's chance of survival when used immediately. The chance of survival decreases by 10% for every minute that passes, so in order to be effective, defibrillation should be delivered within 3 to 5 minutes of collapse.

Our Commitment

Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services is encouraging the implementation of public access defibrillation programs. Our goal is to actively participate in strengthening the links in the chain of survival in the county by providing information for laypersons, corporations, work sites and prescribing physicians to assist in the implementation of public access defibrillation (PAD) programs.

Early Defibrillation

Contra Costa County has had a first responder defibrillation program since 1992. There are approximately ten to twenty patients who lives are saved each year with early defibrillation. The widespread use of PAD has the potential to double that number.

Where to place AEDs

- Locations where large numbers of people visit, work or assemble.
- Places that are more difficult for EMS personnel to reach, such as tall buildings or inside secured areas
- Locations that have a higher incidence of cardiac arrest including golf courses, health clubs/gyms, and large industrial sites.
- Places where there are people at higher risk of sudden cardiac arrest, such as senior centers

The goal of a successful AED program is to be able to deliver a shock within 3 minutes. When determining where to place the AED, use the 3 minute response time as a guide.

AED Consultants/ Trainers

A list of organizations that have notified us that they provide PAD Program consultation and/or training in the use of AEDs can be obtained from the EMS PAD Program Coordinator.

AED Manufacturers

A list of manufacturers that supply AEDs can be obtained from the EMS PAD Program Coordinator.

The Contra Costa County EMS Agency must be notified when you start a PAD program. The EMS Agency will notify the appropriate 911 dispatch agency.

Additional information, forms, and links to PAD consultants, AED trainers, and AED manufacturers can be found on our website at:

www.cccems.org

Click on:
Public Access Defibrillation

Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services

1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 126
Martinez, CA
Phone (925) 646-4690
Fax (925) 646-4379

Disclaimer: Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency does not endorse any specific AED vendor, consultant or training organization.