

Public Access Defibrillation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a public access to defibrillation?

Public access to defibrillation (PAD) means making automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available in public and/or private places where large numbers of people gather or where people who are at risk for heart attacks live, work or play.

What is an AED?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a computerized medical device that can check a person's heart rhythm. It recognizes a rhythm that requires a shock and advises the rescuer when a shock is needed. The AED uses voice prompts, lights and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take.

AEDs are very accurate and easy to use. There are many different brands of AEDs, but the same basic steps apply to all of them.

How many AEDs do I need at my worksite?

This is usually determined by the size of your facility. In addition, if your facility is spread out or on several floors, more than one AED may be recommended. The goal of a successful AED program is to deliver a shock to a victim within 3-5 minutes of collapse. When determining where to place AEDs, use a 3-minute response time as a guide.

How can I get an AED?

AEDs can be purchased through one of several manufacturers and/or vendors. Lists manufacturers and vendors are provided in this packet.

What does training involve?

With recent revisions to AB 658, CPR certification is no longer required to have an AED. We strongly encourage anyone who may need to use the AED to receive training on how to use the device and how to do Hands Only CPR. We also strongly encourage CPR training to better prepare people for different emergency situations. A list of training organizations is provided in this packet. Local CPR/AED course information is also available on the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross websites: www.heart.org www.redcross.org

Is Medical Oversight by a physician required to obtain an AED?

No, in 2015, revisions were made to AB658, which eliminated this requirement, making it easier and more encouraging for locations to obtain AEDS.

Am I legally liable for using an AED?

Individuals using an AED or performing CPR are protected from civil damages if they provide emergency care or treatment in good faith and do not expect compensation. These protections are outlined in the California Statutes Pertaining to Automated External Defibrillators and in the California Civil Code.

What is required to maintain the AED?

Maintaining an AED is very simple. The device will need to be checked per the manufacturers recommendations, or at least every 90 days and after use. This record of these checks will need to be maintained for two years. Our AED packet has a sample form. The AED batteries and pads will need to be replaced when expired

Why is notifying the local EMS Agency required?

Notification of placement of an AED in the community allows the EMS Agency to coordinate and support the AED programs throughout the county. Tracking where AEDs are located in the community allows the EMS Agency to make the information available to 9-1-1 dispatch agencies so that in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, the 9-1-1 dispatcher will know that an AED is on the premises and can help guide individuals on the scene to locate the AED. Using advanced software in our dispatch centers the information is also used to bring the closest AED to the victim.