

Minimize Your Risk with a Well-Managed AED Program



THE FACTS ABOUT CARDIAC ARREST:

- 70,000 cardiac arrests happen outside the home every year.
- Currently there are 3-4 million AED's available to the public, but it would take 30 million AEDs to ensure access within three minutes.
- 92% of cardiac arrest victims don't survive because they don't have access to an AED.
- There is a 90% chance of survival if a cardiac arrest victim is shocked within the first 4 minutes of the onset.
- Chances of survival decrease 10% for every minute without a shock.

What is an AED: You've seen full-sized defibrillators on TV. When the doctor shouts "clear" and shocks the victim, they are using a defibrillator. Even though it's dramatized on TV, an AED works the same - it shocks the heart back into a normal rhythm to restore a pulse. Manufacturers have developed lighter, computer-controlled models which nearly anyone can use.

Goal of an AED: To respond quickly to a cardiac emergency so if a shock is needed, it can be delivered within four minutes of the onset of the issue.

Who Should Have Them: AEDs should be available in public and private places where large numbers of people gather, or where people who are at high risk for cardiac arrest live. Workplaces, retail stores, exercise facilities, sports arenas, office complexes, malls, government buildings, and churches all should be equipped with an AED.

Strategic AED Placement:

One AED covers 283,000 square feet (open area). If you have walls, chairs, desks, etc. - you need to factor that into your response time. The goal is to have the AED within three minutes of the patient. Do an exercise to see if it works.

AED Policies: Have a written policy in place with an outline of the roles and responsibilities of employees, including:

- Who will call 9-1-1?
- Who can use the AED: all employees, public bystanders?
Consider an AED response team.
- Who has the responsibility to act?
- Goals for response time - are they achievable?
- Be sure your employees are confident to use the AED.
Your culture should be one where someone wants to act.
 - Be sure you have several people trained in CPR.
 - All employees should be trained to use the AED.
- Who will maintain the AED?
If you have one, have a plan to maintain it!

For questions, or to purchase your AED, contact the NDSC's First Aid Coordinator at (800) 932-8890.

