Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program

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Contact: Environmental Health & Safety

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**Introduction**

The goal of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program is to increase the rate of survival of people who have sudden cardiac arrests. AED programs are designed to provide equipment and training as an important means for providing enhanced life safety response measures. AEDs make it possible for lay responders to administer defibrillation prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Southern Oregon University is committed to the health and safety of its students, faculty, staff and visitors. This program establishes an AED program for the Southern Oregon University campus that will:

* Implement enhanced life safety response measures,
* Meet regulatory compliance,
* Provide continuity and consistency across campus in AED installation, maintenance and use and,
* Establish AED user training requirements.

All places of public assembly that have 50,000 ft2or more and where at least 25 persons congregate on a normal business day will be required to possess at least one AED and therefore must comply with this policy where noted.  A list of campus buildings where this requirement applies will be maintained by EH&S.

**Scope**

This Manual set forth the standards and responsibilities for the installation, modification, replacement, repair, inspection, maintenance, and non-medical response of AEDs on the Southern Oregon University campus.

**Definitions**

**Automated external defibrillator (AED):** A computerized medical device that analyzes heart rhythm to detect cardiac arrest and delivers an electric shock to the heart (defibrillation) if necessary.

**AED owner/applicant:**An Southern Oregon University department or unit who acquires an AED.

**AED department manager:**A department member assigned to coordinate that department’s AED program.

**AED program coordinator:** The Department of Environmental Health and Safety will provide coordination of the Southern Oregon University AED program.

**Sudden cardiac arrest:** A significant life-threatening event when a person's heart stops or fails to produce a pulse.

**Liability and Good Samaritan Laws**

Oregon state law allows for the use of an AED during an emergency for the purpose of attempting to save the life of another person who is, or who appears to be, in cardiac arrest. Accordingly, Oregon law also expressly provides immunity from civil liability for those who obtain and maintain AEDs, and those who use such devices to attempt to save a life. Oregon Revised Statue Code 30.800, the Oregon Good Samaritan Act, provides that a person who in good faith renders emergency care and assistance, without compensation, shall not be responsible for civil damages for any acts of omissions during the provision of emergency care, except where gross negligence or reckless, wanton or intentional misconduct occurs.

**E****mployee Liability**

Southern Oregon University employees who have within the scope of their employment the responsibility to respond to emergencies are provided protection from personal liability under the Oregon Good Samaritan Act. If the employee does not have the responsibility to respond to emergencies in their job description and they do respond, they are protected from liability by the Oregon Good Samaritan Law, Oregon Revised Statue 30.800 referenced above. This law specifically states that a person rendering emergency aid in the workplace is covered.

**Responsibilities**

**Acquiring AEDs**

Some AED devices may require a physician’s prescription prior to acquisition from the manufacturer. It is the responsibility of the AED program applicant/owner to determine if a prescription is needed prior to submittal of the AED Request to EH&S.

**AED Owner**

Departments and other administrative units that acquire an AED are responsible for operating and maintaining the device to meet regulatory compliance, the standards of the manufacturer, programmatic standards of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, and the. AED owners must:

* Designate an individual who will be responsible for the management of the AED program for the department or unit.
* Develop an AED program for their respective department or unit.
* Submit the AED Request Form to EH&S for approval prior to purchasing the AED.
* Ensure that inspections and maintenance are conducted in a timely manner and in accordance with written user and service manuals provided by the manufacturer.
* Purchase and replace batteries, pads and other supplies as needed.
* Provide or arrange for training and refresher training in AED use for staff. Units should make a reasonable effort to train sufficient staff in order to have at least one trained staff person on site during normal business hours.
* Maintain on-site records as listed below in the "Required Site Records" section.
* Notify the Human Resources Department, via submittal of an AED Incident Report, within 24 hours of an incident or before the end of the business day.

**Environmental Health and Safety**

A representative from the Environmental Health and Safety will serve as the Southern Oregon University AED program coordinator. Environmental Health and Safety will:

* Identify buildings/areas where AED’s are required.
* Maintain and provide an inventory of AED locations on campus to the Department of Public Safety.
* Act as a liaison between AED owners, manufacturers and health agencies to assist in unit maintenance and compliance issues.
* Review AED Incident Reports in concert with Student Health and consult AED owners to determine if programmatic changes are needed.

**Responder**

Anyone may, at their discretion, provide voluntary assistance to victims of medical emergencies to the extent appropriate to their training and experience.

**Required Site Records**

The following records must be maintained at or readily accessible to the AED location, except for AEDs located in places of public assembly, where centralization of records is allowed:

* The AED Request Form as approved by the UHSC.
* Guidelines for use and manufacturer's instructions.
* Self-inspection records.
* Training records, including a description of the training program.
* The identity of the department's AED program manager.
* AED Incident Reports.

**Training**

It is the responsibility of AED owners to provide or arrange for initial and refresher training in AED use for staff and maintain on-site training records, including a description of the training program.  Oregon State University recommends that all staff identified for AED training successfully complete an American Heart Association or American Red Cross CPR/AED course. The Department of Recreational Sports offers approved training classes to assist the AED owner in this area.

Training is optional for those AEDs required within places of public assembly.

**Incident Notification and Documentation**

Departments or units must notify the Human Resources Department within 24 hours of an incident or before the end of the business day. The AED owner must complete and submit an Incident Report to Human Resources as part of this notification.

**Regulations and Guidelines**

**Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2000.** U.S. Public Law 106-505 (11-13-2000). This law encourages the placement of AEDs in federal buildings (42 U.S.C. 238p) and provides nationwide Good Samaritan protection (42 U.S.C. 238q) that exempts from liability anyone who renders emergency treatment with a defibrillator to save someone's life.

**Community Access to Emergency Devices Act.** Community AED Act. U.S. Public Law 107-188 (6-12-2002). This act authorizes federal grant funds for the purchase and placement of AEDs in public places, training First Responders on AEDs and encouraging private companies to purchase and train employees on use of AEDs (42 U.S.C. 244 and 245).

**Federal Food and Drug Administration Regulations.** A good summary of these regulations is contained in the URMIA White Paper available from the Office of Risk Management. The most important requirement is that any AED program must have medical oversight by a physician familiar with sudden cardiac arrest and the operation of AEDs.

**Guidelines for Public Access Defibrillation Programs in Federal Facilities** (January 18, 2001). 66 Federal Register 2001. This publication provides a general framework for initiating a design process for an AED program in federal facilities and discusses the essential elements of such a program.

**Oregon Good Samaritan Act.** Oregon Revised Statue §30.800. This act provides that a person who in good faith renders emergency care and assistance, without compensation, shall not be responsible for civil damages for any acts of omissions during the provision of emergency care. This Good Samaritan Act provides protection to a rescuer, even an untrained rescuer, who uses an AED on a cardiac arrest victim, except where gross negligence occurs.

**Oregon Senate Bill 556 (to be codified within ORS 431):** Effective 1/1/2010, all places of public assembly with 50,000 ft2 or more and where at least 25 individuals congregate, shall possess at least one AED.  EH&S will identify those facilities that meet this definition.