

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 00-35

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
REPLACES/AMENDS: NONE

DATE: August 14, 2000

AUTOMATIC DEFIBRILLATOR

I. PURPOSE.

Although the Police Department does not possess the primary responsibility for emergency medical care, it does recognize that department employees are often the first individuals to arrive at the scene of a medical emergency. As such, the following is intended to provide a procedural guideline in regard to the use of Automatic External Defibrillators, the training required, and the storage, maintenance, and inspection requirements associated with the devices. The procedures are also designed to comply with RSMo 190.375 which establishes certain AED protocols.

II. DEFINITIONS.

Automatic External Defibrillator – A device for arresting fibrillation of the auricular or ventricular muscles of the heart.

III. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Officers and other department employees responsible for the use of an AED must successfully complete an initial course of training certified by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association that includes cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training and demonstrated proficiency in the use of automated external defibrillators.
- B. Officers and other employees will receive training in the use of a particular AED device from the manufacturer or their designee.
- C. Officers and other department employees will receive CPR training every year as part of the First Responder Re-Training program, and AED re-certification training every two years per American Heart Association standards.
- D. At a minimum, refresher training will be conducted at least once a year as part of the department's in-house training program. Refresher training may be conducted more frequently at the direction of the department's training

coordinator.

- E. In the event an employee believes they are in need of additional individual training they should contact a member of the department's training committee and request supplemental training be scheduled.

IV. USAGE PROTOCOLS/PROCEDURES.

A. Criteria for Application of Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

- 1). When the victim is not conscious.
- 2). When the victim does not have a carotid pulse.
- 3). When the victim has a body weight of at least ninety (90) pounds.

B. Criteria Barring the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

- 1). When the victim is suffering from obvious and severe physical trauma (i.e. excessive bleeding, massive chest trauma, internal organs damaged).
- 2). When the victim displays obvious signs of death (i.e. decapitation, rigor mortis, decomposition, etc.).
- 3). When the victim is suffering from hypothermia.
- 4). When the victim or AED operator are on a wet surface or exposed to rain/snow.
- 5). When use of the AED could endanger others.

C. Preliminary Procedures for use of Automatic External Defibrillator

- 1). Upon arrival, immediately assess the victim to verify cardiac arrest.
- 2). If one officer/employee is present, the employee will immediately initiate use of the AED.
- 3). If two officers or employees are present, one employee should start CPR while the second will initiate use of the AED.

D. Connection of Automatic External Defibrillator

- 1). Prepare Victim's Chest.
 - a. Remove clothing to expose victim's chest. This is necessary for the application of electrodes.
 - b. Dry chest if victim is wet, has suntan oil or other substance on skin that would impair contact of the electrodes.
 - c. Remove nitroglycerin patches if located where electrodes will be placed.
 - d. If victim has hair that prevents the electrodes from sticking to the skin, the involved officers/employees will have to shave

that area of the chest to establish proper contact. A disposable razor will be maintained in the AED case for this purpose.

- 2). Open AED cover and follow AED voice prompts.
- 3). Place electrodes: one on upper right chest, the second on lower left rib cage.
- 4). Discontinue CPR and allow AED to analyze victim's condition (5-15 seconds).
- 5). Follow AED voice prompts.
 - a. Voice Prompts **"SHOCK ADVISED"**

1. Make sure no one is in physical contact with victim.
2. All persons in the area should stand. This will reduce the chances of any electrical shock to first responders or bystanders.
3. Press button to apply shock, then follow AED prompts.
4. AED will re-analyze and if required will advise to deliver a second shock. Press button to deliver shock, then listen to AED voice prompts.
5. The AED will re-analyze, and if required, will advise to deliver a third shock. Press button to deliver shock, then listen to AED voice prompts.
6. AED will again re-analyze victim following third shock. If no pulse is apparent, the AED will advise first responders to perform CPR for one minute. After this has been accomplished, allow AED to re-analyze victim's status.
7. Repeat the series of shocks if so advised by the AED; follow the AED voice prompts.
8. The electrical shocks may be repeated a third time for a total of nine (9) shocks.

V. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITIES.

Once an officer has utilized an Automatic External Defibrillator in the field, the following actions shall be required:

- A. The officer will notify the watch commander that the AED has been used. This shall occur at the earliest practical opportunity.
- B. Contact the Fire Department Medical Officer to remove the data disc from the AED and install a back-up disc. The Medical Officer will then handle the data review, transfer and/or any other activities related to the original data disc.
- C. Contact the squad supervisor who shall be responsible to install a new set of electrodes in the AED.

VI. EQUIPMENT STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE.

A. Storage

- 1). Automatic External Defibrillators have been assigned to all district cars and the Communications Unit. When issued to patrol personnel, AEDs will be stored in the passenger compartment of the police vehicle. The AED assigned to the Communications Unit shall be stored in a readily accessible location within the dispatch area.
- 2). During shift change, AEDs will be conveyed from the patrol vehicles and stored in the Roll Call Room for subsequent re-assignment. AEDs shall not be left in patrol vehicles.

B. Maintenance

- 1). At the beginning of each shift, officers and dispatchers responsible for an AED will verify that the equipment displays a green status indicator light. A green light means the equipment is in operable condition. Should a red light be visible, the AED will be removed from service and forwarded to the Commander of the Investigations and Support Bureau for repair.
- 2). The AED performs an internal check at approximately 0303 hours on a daily basis. An audible chirping or beeping may be heard during this process, but no outside action on the part of the assigned operator is required. Should the machine be in use, the automatic check will not affect the normal functioning of the equipment.
- 3). Should problems be encountered with an AED, they shall be brought to the attention of the appropriate supervisor and/or watch commander. Efforts will then be undertaken to resolve the problem(s). In the event the problems cannot be resolved, the unit

will again be forwarded to the Commander of the Investigations and Support Bureau.

C. Inspections

- 1). AEDs will be routinely inspected as part of the Line Inspection process. As such the supervisor responsible for vehicles shall perform an inspection of the equipment on a bi-weekly basis as part of the regular vehicle inspections.

BY ORDER OF:

RICHARD T. MORRIS
Chief of Police

RTM:dld

CALEA Reference: None