



Yolo Emergency Medical Service Agency

137 N. Cottonwood Street, Suite 2601
Woodland, CA 95695 – (530) 666-8645

FAQ – PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION

What is a public access to defibrillation?

What is an AED?

How many AEDs do I need at my worksite?

How can I get an AED?

What does training involve?

If AEDs are so easy to use, why do people need formal training in how to use them?

Am I legally liable for using an AED?

Why can't I just buy an AED and keep it at my worksite?

Why must there be oversight by a medical doctor?

Why is notifying the local EMS Agency required?

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?

Training involves a course in CPR and the use of an AED. 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.



Yolo Emergency Medical Service Agency

137 N. Cottonwood Street, Suite 2601
Woodland, CA 95695 – (530) 666-8645

FAQ – PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION

If AEDs are so easy to use, why do people need formal training in how to use them?

An AED operator must know how to recognize the signs of sudden cardiac arrest, when to activate the 911 system, and how to do CPR. Training also teaches the operator how to use the device in different situations e.g. drowning.

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.

Why can't I just buy an AED and keep it at my worksite?

AEDs are manufactured and sold under guidelines approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The purchase of an AED currently requires a physician's prescription for the device.

Why must there be oversight by a medical doctor?

Medical oversight of an AED is required by law. An AED is a medical device prescribed by a physician. The Physician oversight requirements include: providing medical review of each incident where the AED was used. The physician also ensures that rescuers are properly trained and their skills maintained, and assists in the development of an Internal Emergency Response Plan that ensures compliance with regulation requirements.

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.