

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

Introduction

The District anticipates that trained employees who are present when a potential sudden cardiac incident occurs will react to such an incident by activating the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response. The District makes Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's) available at designated sites so that trained personnel can attempt to intervene in sudden death incidents through the use of both Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED's, according to approved Washington State Department of Health approved course procedures.

Definition: "Sudden Death" is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance in the heart's electrical rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). This erratic and ineffective electrical heart rhythm causes complete cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood resulting in sudden death. The most effective treatment for this condition is the administration of an electrical current to the heart by a defibrillator, delivered within a short time of the onset of VF. An automated external defibrillator or AED can be used to deliver this needed shock.

An AED is used when a person does not respond when shaken and is not breathing normally.

Definition of the AED

An AED is a semiautomatic external defibrillator as prescribed by a physician licensed under Chapter 18.71 RCW or an osteopath licensed under Chapter 18.57 RCW.

Requirements of Personnel and Notification

The Cashmere School District, with the support of the district school nurse, when acquiring a defibrillator shall ensure that:

- A. Expected defibrillator users receive reasonable instruction in defibrillator use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- B. The defibrillator is maintained and tested by the acquirer according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines; the building principal will appoint someone to check the unit's readiness and report any problems.

- C. Upon acquiring a defibrillator, medical direction is enlisted by the acquirer from a licensed physician in the use of the defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- D. The person or entity who acquires a defibrillator shall notify the local emergency medical services organization about the existence and the location of the defibrillator.
- E. The defibrillator user shall call 911 or its local equivalent as soon as possible after the emergency use of the defibrillator and shall assure that appropriate follow-up data is made available as requested by emergency medical service or other health care providers.

Training Requirements

Expected users are to receive training in CPR and AED use “by a course approved by the Department of Health”.

Liability

“A person who uses a defibrillator at the scene of an emergency and all other persons and entities providing services under this section are immune from civil liability for any personal injury that results from any act or omission in the use of the defibrillator in an emergency setting.”

“The immunity from civil liability does not apply if the acts or omissions amount to gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

“The requirements of this section shall not apply to any individual using a defibrillator in an emergency setting if that individual is acting as a Good Samaritan under RCW 4.24.300.”

Legal References:

SHB 2998	Limited immunity for use of semiautomatic external defibrillators
RCW 70.54	Miscellaneous health and safety provisions
RCW 18.71	Physicians

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Policy 3412

RCW 18.57 Osteopathy:
Osteopathic medicine
and surgery

RCW 4.24.300 Persons rendering
emergency care and
transportation –
Immunity from
liability – Exclusion