

Policy for Public Access AED use by Firefighters

A-077

Date: 4-6-2003

The Board of Fire Commissioners provides the following guidelines for Firefighters in the application, use, and maintenance of the Public Access Defibrillators in service in the Union Vale Fire District.

Designated Providers:

Union Vale Firefighters who possess a valid American Heart Association CPR/AED provider or equivalent card are the personnel who are authorized to operator the Public Access AED. An Emergency Medical Technician may also operate the Public Access AED. When the AED is needed, any member may bring the AED to the scene of the medical incident to allow rapid availability to the trained personnel. All providers will agree to follow the protocols of NYS Department of Health, the medical director, Dr. Jared Zelan of Sharon Hospital and these guidelines.

Training:

An AHA, ARC, or NSC CPR instructor with AED instructor status shall conduct all AED training for certification. The standard of training for all Public Access AED responders will be a New York State approved CPR/AED course by a recognized agency such as The American Heart Association, or the National Safety Council. The Fire District Medical Officer will conduct all other training.

Accreditation:

The initial accreditation to become an authorized AED provider is to be a member of the Union Vale Fire Company or Rescue Squad and have successfully completed an approved CPR/AED course.

To maintain accreditation a responder must attend a minimum of two of the quarterly proficiency drills offered by the Fire District Medical Officer. The drills will be conducted the first Tuesday of the month, starting May 2003. Failure to attend a quarterly proficiency drill will disqualify the AED responder until such time that he/she does attend. A report of compliance by AED responders will be made to the Chief of the Union Vale Fire Company after each quarter.

Quality Improvement Audit (QIA):

If the AED was used during the quarter then the medical director or his designee must conduct a QIA. Attendance by those members who participated in the use of the AED at the medical incident is required. Attendance by other AED responders is encouraged and recommended.

If the AED was not used during the quarter, then the AED coordinator may conduct a QIA.

Patient Information:

The AED responder in charge must fill out a Cardiac Arrest data Sheet and provide this information to the responding medical personnel upon their arrival. A copy of this sheet along with the Patient Care Report by the EMT is to be sent to the Medical Director within 72 hours. Note: The EMT in charge is to complete a QA Cardiac Arrest Quality Improvement form and

attach to the yellow copy of the PCR, which will be forwarded to the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council.

Equipment:

For the purpose of standardization, the AED units will be the Philips Heartstart FR2.

Maintenance:

The AED units shall be kept in a clean environment. The units shall be protected from temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and above 109 degrees Fahrenheit and above 75% humidity. The guidelines contained in the Philips Instruction Manual for cleaning the unit and post use are to be followed.

The responder in charge is responsible for re-supplying the AED unit whenever it is used. The following equipment is to be maintained with each AED unit: 2 pair of Adult pads, 1 pair of pediatric pads, 2 pair of gloves, washcloth, safety razor, and EMT scissors. Contact an officer in the Union Vale Rescue Squad for supplies, and perform post use maintenance on the AED unit, and return it to service. NOTE: A pocket mask will be issued to each firefighter that is trained.

A daily check of the status indicator window on the unit for readiness is to be made. If anything other than the black hourglass is flashing in the status indicator window, immediately notify the AED coordinator or the Fire District Medical Officer.

AED Protocols:

These protocols are to be followed whenever the AED is needed in the Union Vale Fire District.

- Assess the scene for safety. Stage away if declared unsafe by D.C. Bureau of Emergency Response.
- Assess the victim for unresponsiveness.
- If unresponsive, take body substance precautions and;
- Check for breathing and circulation, if absent;
- INITIATE CPR UNTIL THE AED ARRIVES

WHEN THE AED ARRIVES:

- Continue CPR until the AED is attached and ready to analyze.
- Place the AED next to the patient's left ear;
- Turn on the AED and attach the appropriate pads to the chest (Pediatric for 1-8 years old).
- Plug in the connector
- Deliver shocks if indicated by the AED (up to 3, then 1 minute of CPR followed by up to 3 more)
- Continue CPR if needed, Continue shocks if indicated by the AED.
- Provide the ambulance crew with patient information and prepare the patient for transport.
- Complete the Cardiac Arrest Data sheet.

When higher medical authority arrives:

Patient care will be turned over to the EMT or Paramedic upon their arrival. The AED responder (see patient information section) will provide an update on the patient to the EMT or Paramedic and continue to assist if able.