

Public Access Defibrillation Frequently Asked Questions

What is an AED?

An Automated External Defibrillator allows minimally trained laypersons to treat victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). About the size of a laptop computer, with adhesive electrode pads, the device delivers a brief but powerful stimulation to the heart allowing it to start beating again. The device is pre-programmed with the expertise needed to analyze the heart's electrical system and decide whether a shock is needed. AED's use voice prompts and screen displays to instruct the user in the proper operation of the device.

Why do I need one in my place of business?

Every day in Anne Arundel County, a person's heart suddenly stops beating as a result of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. An AED placed in your business, community center or gathering place can increase the chance of survival to 75%. It is only a matter of time before one of your employees or customers is affected — will you be ready to save their life?

Isn't calling 911 enough?

Always call 911 in an emergency. However, time is critical: for every minute that person's heart is not beating the chance of survival drops by more than 10%. Within 5 minutes, the chance of survival is less than 50%. Even in ideal circumstances, the national average response time for public safety professionals is 6 to 10 minutes. Anne Arundel County strives to provide the fastest service possible but we cannot save lives alone.

How do I recognize the need for Defibrillation?

You would place an AED on someone you would do CPR on (unresponsive, not breathing, and has no pulse) ... The machine decides whether or not to defibrillate.

Do I assume any liability by placing an AED in my business?

No. In addition to the Good Samaritan Law that protects individuals who serve as "first responders" in time of an emergency, the Maryland AED Program Law specifically protects organizations and individuals that have an AED program.



HeartSmart, the Cliff R. Roop Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to increasing the chances of surviving Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in Anne Arundel County. Through fundraising and awareness education, the Foundation supports the placement of Automated External Defibrillators and corresponding training opportunities. The Foundation was created in 2000, as a project of Leadership Anne Arundel County, honoring the late County Councilman Cliff R. Roop who lost his life from SCA.

To date, over 44 AED's have been placed in our community, and at least three lives have been saved with these devices.

For more information about the Foundation,

go to www.heartsmartfoundation.org

Email: info@heartsmartfoundation.org.

Phone: 443-510-1031

Now, the power to save a life ...

Is in your hands.



An Automated External
Defibrillator (AED)



OUR MISSION

To make Anne Arundel County a

“ Heart Safe Community ”

by increasing the chance for its citizens to
survive a Sudden Cardiac Arrest with an AED.

Every day in Anne Arundel County a person's heart suddenly stops beating — a circumstance called Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). It is caused by a condition called *ventricular fibrillation*, when the heart's electrical system short circuits and prevents the heart from beating effectively. Only a shock to the heart can restore coordinated electrical activity and allow the heart to start beating again.

Less than 5% of the people who suffer Sudden Cardiac Arrest survive.

While this is a chilling fact, a coordinated response that includes an AED placed in your business, community center or gathering place can increase the chance of surviving SCA to 75%!

With a one-time investment, and simple training, you have the ability to literally save someone's life: most likely a customer or co-worker. Even if you are not trained the presence of an AED in your facility may make it possible for anyone to save the life of a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

A defibrillator placed in your business or community center gives you
THE POWER TO SAVE A LIFE!



For more information on the Public Access Defibrillator Program and how you can help save a life , call 443 - 510 - 1031 or visit

www.heartsmartfoundation.org

Every day in Anne Arundel County a person's heart stops beating. Using a defibrillator and CPR within 3 minutes of an attack can increase your chance of survival to 75%. We need your help to save lives!