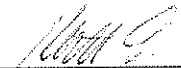



Snohomish County 

SAFETY & HEALTH PROCEDURE #23

REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Date	Description
Orig	27 OCT 2009	Original

Drafted by: 
(Matt Erickson, Safety Specialist,
Snohomish County Risk Management Division Safety Office)

Approved by: 
(John Navroth, County Safety Officer,
Snohomish County Risk Management Division Safety Office)

Date: 10/27/09

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs)
PROGRAM

REFERENCE: (a) RCW 70.54.310; Semiautomatic external defibrillator – Duty of acquirer
– Immunity from civil liability
(b) RCW 4.24.300; Immunity from liability for certain types of medical care.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

- A. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) 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 the heart to stop pumping blood resulting in sudden death. The most effective treatment for this condition is the immediate administration of an electrical current to the heart by a defibrillator.

- B. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a compact battery-operated device that delivers a shock to the heart through a pair of electrodes attached to the victim's chest. The devices are programmed to electronically read heart rhythms and will deliver a shock only if the victim is suffering from ventricular fibrillation.
- C. The purpose of possessing AEDs in the workplace is to improve emergency response survivability of county staff and visitors suffering from sudden cardiac arrest.
- D. The intent of this procedure is to outline the minimum requirements of possessing and maintaining publicly accessible AEDs in Snohomish County Government facilities.
- E. This procedure covers only those AEDs under the supervision of the Risk Management Division Safety Office. Departments not under this program are required to adopt their own program, using this procedure as the minimum requirements, as well as fund and maintain units as described.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A public access defibrillation program requires that acquired AEDs be installed in public areas of business facilities. They are intended to be used only by trained lay-responders (staff or general public) during a sudden cardiac arrest incident.
- B. As required by RCW 70.54.310; Semiautomatic external defibrillator – Duty of acquirer, a medical director must oversee AED programs.
- C. The installed location, manufacturer and model number for each active device will be recorded and maintained by the AED site coordinator.
- D. Each active device must be registered with the local EMS/fire department.
- E. A list of individuals trained in the operation of the AED must be posted with each unit.
- F. Maintenance, inspection and testing done in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations will be conducted and documented by the AED site coordinator.

- G. Any time the AED is removed for emergency use, 9-1-1 will be notified and EMS/ambulance/fire department will be summoned to respond to the site.
- H. The AED site coordinator shall be notified as soon as possible, any time the device is opened and put into service, or if the device appears to be damaged or malfunctioning.

III. GOOD SAMARITAN PROVISION

- A. Pursuant to **RCW 4.24.300; Immunity from liability for certain types of medical care.** A person who operates 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.
- B. Immunity from civil liability does not apply if the acts or omissions amount to gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **AED Site Coordinator Responsibilities:**
 - i. Coordinate acquisition, installation and registration of AED devices.
 - ii. Coordinate training of volunteer responders.
 - iii. Ensure all records are kept as indicated in the written plan.
 - iv. Inspect, test and maintain devices per manufacturer's specifications.
 - v. Promote AED program and encourage volunteer participation.
- B. **Employees / trained individuals:**
 - i. Voluntarily acquire training certification and accept responsibility associated with potential emergency responder status.
 - ii. Maintain certification as outlined by AED training program (standard re-certification period is every two (2) years).
- C. **The Safety Office:**
 - i. The Safety Office is responsible to monitor the AED program for effectiveness, maintain inventories for units under its supervision, and make revisions to the written plan as necessary.