

## Background

Sudden cardiac arrest claims about 350,000 American lives each year. In most cases this event occurs due to ventricular fibrillation, an abnormal heart rhythm that causes the heart muscle to fibrillate or quiver in a chaotic motion. If left untreated, this condition leaves the heart muscle unable to pump blood, and death occurs within minutes. Because sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in our nation, it is a major public health problem. Since 1990, our county has had a successful First Responder Defibrillation Program. Good Samaritan Laws now give critical protection to the Automated External Defibrillation (AED) owner, those who use an AED in rendering emergency care, CPR/AED trainers, and the prescribing physician.



Alameda County EMS is providing information for greater public access to defibrillation. Our goal is to actively participate in strengthening the links in the chain of survival in our county by being a resource for corporations, businesses of all sizes, health clubs, non-profit agencies, work sites, laypersons, and prescribing physicians with information necessary to implement public access defibrillation (PAD) program.

## The Role of a PAD Prescribing Physician

Having a prescribing physician is necessary in order to abide by the regulations of having medical oversight for the AED. The physician ensures that the person or entity placing an AED has an Emergency Response Plan, staff trained in CPR/AED, coverage during normal business hours, and reviews each incident that involves the use of an AED and recommends any necessary quality improvement actions.

## Finding Medical Oversight

Many of the AED consultants and vendors offer medical oversight. In addition, a list of physicians known to us, who are open to providing medical oversight, can be found at our Web site.

## Health Studio Requirements

California Health & Safety Code section 104113 mandates that all "health studios" have an AED and follow the regulations. The section also explains liability protection when the regulations are followed.

## Liability Issues

The California Health & Safety Code and Civil Code gives liability protection to those trained in CPR, who in good faith, render emergency CPR at the scene of an emergency; and for people or entities that acquire an AED and abide by the regulations.

### Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency

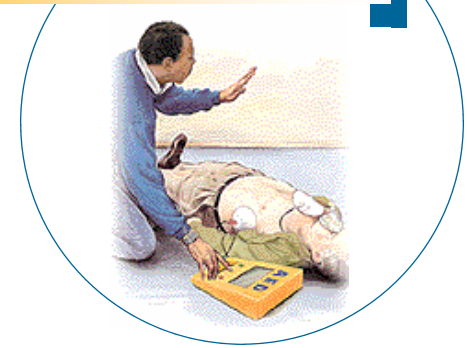
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Website: [www.acgov.org/ems](http://www.acgov.org/ems) - click on: "AED Program"  
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**Disclaimer:** Alameda County and its departments, divisions, sections and units, while strongly supporting the concept of AED/PAD Programs, do not endorse any specific PAD program, AED, consultant, or training organization.

## Alameda County Emergency Medical Services

## Public Access Defibrillation Program



Saving Lives Through Early Defibrillation  
in partnership with



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

# Alameda County's AED/PAD Program

## Statistics Support AED/PAD Programs

Seventy-five percent of the people who die suddenly of heart disease, often without previous symptoms, are outside of a hospital setting. Cardiac arrest, the #1 killer of adults in the U.S., claims about 350,000 lives per year. Statistics show that fewer than 5% of those who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) outside of a hospital will survive. Automatic External Defibrillators, called AEDs, have been shown to boost a person's chance of survival when used immediately. However, the chance of survival decreases by 10% for every minute that passes, so in order to be effective, defibrillation must be administered within the first minutes of an arrest. A Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program can make the difference between life and death to your employees and/or customers.

Many companies in Alameda County have PAD Programs and have never had to use their AEDs. But, they can take heart that if the need arises they are prepared. Most federal and state, and many county buildings have AEDs. More and more local businesses are making the decision to implement a PAD Program.

## AEDs in Action

Many people in Alameda County are alive because someone used an AED on them when they experienced an SCA. Several employees of the NUMMI Toyota plant

in Fremont, and people in coffee shops, health clubs, at swimming pools, and other locations around the county were fortunate to be near an AED when they had an SCA.

## The AED Program Goal

The goal is to have an AED located so responders can respond and deliver a shock within three minutes. When determining where to place an AED, use this as a guide.

## Seven Steps to Start an AED/PAD Program

1. Decide to implement AEDs into their health and safety program.
2. Find a prescribing physician to oversee the program.
3. Select a training organization to provide training to employees in the use of an AED and CPR.
4. Choose an AED including cabinetry, signs, and a fast response kit.
5. Develop a plan of ongoing training and AED checks.
6. Identify an on-site contact.
7. Notify Alameda County EMS to integrate the AED location into the local EMS system.

## AED Consultants, Trainers & Vendors

Lists of known organizations that provide AED Program consultation and/or training in the use of AEDs, and AED vendors can be found at our Web site.



The Chain of Survival

Early notification \* Early CPR \* Early defibrillation \* Early advanced life support

## AED/PAD Program Requirements

1. Have a medical director to provide medical oversight of your AED Program.
2. Have a written Emergency Response Plan that describes procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, including the use of an AED.
3. Have employees trained in CPR/AED according to American Heart Association or American Red Cross guidelines.
4. Have no less than one trained employee available during normal business hours.
5. Maintain and test the AED for readiness, recording the checks.
6. Notify Alameda County EMS when an AED is used.
7. Building owners who place an AED must annually provide a brochure to tenants on the use of an AED and its location.

The Alameda County EMS Agency must be notified when you start an AED Program or add more AEDs. The EMS Agency will notify the local fire department and 9-1-1 dispatch center.

Additional information including what to do when an AED is used, forms, and links to consultants, trainers, and vendors can be found on our website:

[www.acgov.org/ems](http://www.acgov.org/ems)  
click on "AED Program"