

SAFETY FOCUS

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

WHAT: Early defibrillation is a critical component in treating sudden cardiac arrest. An Automatic External Defibrillator (also known as an Automated External Defibrillator or AED) is a type of computerized medical device. When properly placed on a person's chest, it can analyze the heart's rhythm and apply an electrical shock if needed. It will not give a shock to a normally beating heart. The AED uses voice prompts, lights and pictures to tell the rescuer the steps to take. It can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock. And it can advise the rescuer when a shock is needed.

WHERE: The University has funded the placement of AEDs in most campus buildings. There are currently 192 AEDs throughout campus, mobile units in university police cars and some outlying locations. The hope is that individuals suffering sudden cardiac arrest will have lifesaving equipment nearby. AEDs are typically located in areas that are easily accessed by both occupants and the public, such as lobbies and corridors. All AED locations are indicated by signage and most are in signed, designated cabinets.

HOW: AEDs are very effective and easy to use. With a few hours of training, anyone can learn to operate an AED safely. Knowing how to use these devices and where they are located can increase the survival rate of a heart attack by 74%. Any person who has gone through CPR/AED training can successfully use an AED. Anyone else can, at their discretion, provide voluntary assistance to victims of medical emergencies. Training videos on how to use an AED are available: <https://utah.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/441/slide/2851>

