



Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Standard

1.0 PURPOSE

This standard supports the Emergency Response Planning Policy and specifies the requirements for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at SaskPower.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

An AED is a small, portable device that analyzes cardiac rhythms and when appropriate, delivers an electrical counter-shock therapy.

2.2 Defibrillation

Defibrillation is an electrical shock that is administered by an AED to restart the heart. The delivery of an electrical shock to a heart experiencing SCA briefly stops all electrical activity in the heart. This brief "break" from the previous electrical chaos can be enough for the heart to restart beating with a normal rhythm.

2.3 Emergency Medical Care

The provision of treatment to patients, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support, advanced life support and other medical procedures that occur before arriving at a health care facility.

2.4 Heart Fibrillation

Heart fibrillation is a medical condition where the electrical pulses of the heart are disrupted from SCA, causing the heart to vibrate continuously, rendering it unable to pump blood.

2.5 PAD Coordinator

A PAD program employee that assists with purchasing an AED and ensuring routine maintenance; provides information on training in the use of AEDs and recertification; coordinates an EMS Activation Plan for a PAD location; conducts a post incident review, after a sudden cardiac arrest and the use of an AED; help with stress management following the use of an AED.

2.6 Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program

A program that works with local organizations and businesses, in helping them become automated external defibrillator sites.

2.7 Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

An SCA occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart itself stops beating. It is fatal unless treated quickly and the only effective treatment for SCA is early defibrillation.



3.0 METHOD/PRACTICE

3.1 Selection

- The Corporate Safety Department, supported by local RU Management and the local PAD Coordinator (or designate), shall:
 - Conduct risk based assessments for worksite AEDs and provide recommendations for quantity and location.
 - Assist with the selection of SaskPower approved AEDs.

3.2 Program Development

- The Corporate Safety Department, supported by the local PAD Coordinator (or designate), shall:
 - Assist in setting up an inspection protocol.
 - Assist in setting up a maintenance program.
 - Provide information on training in the use of AEDs and recertification.
 - Provide a list of approved AED instructors in the health region.
 - Coordinate an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Activation Plan for a PAD location.
 - Lead and participate in a post incident review after an SCA has occurred and an AED is used.
 - Recommend / offer debriefing and required support following an incident.
 - Provide continuous quality assurance to PAD sites.
 - Facilitate development of a local activation plan, with the assistance of the PAD Program Coordinator.

3.3 Equipment Requirements

- The purchase of AEDs shall be coordinated with the health region and shall be compatible with the local EMS.
- AEDs shall be:
 - CSA approved.
 - Electromagnetic compatible (EMC) in electromagnetic fields (EMFs).
 - Capable of recording and retrieving information.
 - Suitable for proposed location.

3.4 Training

- Users of AED shall be identified at the local level and be provided with approved training.
- A list of competent trainers for AED's shall be identified and maintained by the Corporate Safety Department.
- Training is valid for three years.

3.5 Inspection and Maintenance

- Monthly inspections of worksite AEDs shall be performed by local personnel, with the support of the Corporate Safety Department.
- Frequency of maintenance shall be determined by the local PAD Coordinator (or designate).
- Maintenance is scheduled and coordinated with local PAD Coordinator (or designate).

3.6 Records

- Records shall be maintained as required.



4.0 REFERENCES

- Saskatchewan
 - *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996, Part III, General Duty*
- SaskPower (located on SafetyNet Portal)
 - Emergency Response Policy
 - AED Activation Plan Template
 - AED Monthly Inspection Checklist
 - Safety Briefing # 19: Automated External Defibrillator Standard
- 3RD Party
 - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region PAD Program (websites)
 - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (websites)
 - Manufacturers of AEDs (websites)