

SafetySense



AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS



What is an AED?

An AED, or automatic external defibrillator, is a portable device that automatically detects life-threatening heart rhythm irregularities and, when activated by its user, delivers a shock intended to “reset” the victim’s heart rhythm to its normal, regular beat.

When should an AED be used?

AEDs should be used in conjunction with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), on people who are unconscious, not breathing, or whose pulse is undetectable. CPR, with or without rescue breaths, helps move the oxygen in the victim’s blood to the brain and other vital organs, while the AED’s shock is used to restore their quivering or irregular heartbeat back to normal.

Once cardiac arrest has occurred, irreversible brain damage and death occur rapidly. For every minute that a person is in a state of cardiac arrest that goes without being successfully treated by defibrillation, their chance of their survival decreases by 7% per minute in the first three minutes and by 10% per minute for every minute beyond three minutes.

Are AEDs easy to use?

AEDs are designed to be used by people with no medical training. However, it helps to be familiar with AEDs before you need to use one so you can act quickly and confidently in what is often a stressful situation.

AEDs have two, well-identified buttons, a green one for power and a red one for delivering shock. As soon as the AED is turned on, voice commands provide step-by-step instructions to the user. In addition, each of the two adhesive pads provided with the device have diagrams that show where they must be applied to the person’s chest.

Once activated with the power button, the AED voice commands will provide verbal assistance to guide the user through alternating CPR and heart rhythm monitoring cycles. If the AED detects a need for a shock, it will advise a shock. If not, it will advise another cycle of CPR.

How can I learn to use an AED?

Washington Township offers CPR classes that include instruction on how to use an AED. Participants learn about the safest and most effective location and body positions for effective CPR and defibrillation, how to apply AED pads, and practice administering the alternating cycles of CPR and heart rhythm monitoring.

What if I shock a person by mistake?

AEDs will deliver a shock to only those victims whose heart rhythm warrants a shock. If the victim’s heart rhythm does not warrant a shock, the AED will not deliver one, even if the “shock” button is depressed in error.

[more >](#)

Should I purchase an AED for my household or business?

An AED is a valuable addition to any residence, business, or organization because it puts a life-saving device within easy reach of family members, visitors, customers, and employees, should a need arise.

Depending on circumstances, health conditions, proximity to emergency care, some people elect to carry an AED in their vehicle or with them to their workplace to ensure quick access.

I'd like some help determining which AED is right for me.

Washington Township offers a free AED consultation for Dublin/Washington Township residents and businesses. During the consultation, our Safety Technician can help you determine the best location for your existing or future AED and train your family or employees on its use.

To make an appointment for a consultation, complete the online request form at wtwp.com

If I would like to purchase an AED for my home or business, what do I need to know?

AEDs vary in cost, based on features. Most range in cost from \$800-\$1000 but can cost as much as \$3000. Beside your budget, other factors that will help you select the AED that is right for you are:

FDA clearance: Check that the device meets the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration to ensure it is expected to operate safely and accurately.

Batteries: What type of batteries and how many does the device use? How long are the batteries expected to last and what is the cost to replace them?

Chest pads : What size and how many chest pads are included with the device? Do you want adult and child sized pads? What is their shelf life and what is the cost to replace the chest pads?

Portability: If moving your AED from place to place is a priority, you may want to consider the weight and overall size in your decision.

Resistance to environmental conditions: If you anticipate that your AED will be exposed to water, dust, sand etc., choose a design that provides weather resistance.

Visual commands: If a hearing-impaired person could be using your AED, consider a model that has a screen that displays voice commands.

Accessories: Do you want a carrying case, CPR mask, extra chest pads? Are these included with the purchase of the device? If not, are they available and what is their cost?



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