

SANTA CLARA POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 96.9

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR POLICY

AMENDED DECEMBER 2014

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in a cardiac emergency. Often, police officers arrive at the scene of a medical emergency prior to fire department personnel. The availability of an AED to a victim of a cardiac arrest may be life-saving if defibrillation is administered in the first few minutes, thus increasing the victim's chance of survival.

The City of Santa Clara established a Citywide AED program in 1992 that is managed by the Fire Department. The Police Department will be a part of this Lifesaving City program. The Santa Clara Fire Department Medical Director provides the medical oversight that is required by State law and the quality assurance of both the training and usage of AED's.

The AED program will be managed by the Fire Department, however; the daily and monthly operational requirements will be the responsibility of the Police Department. Personnel will be trained in CPR every two years with semi-annual refresher training on AED protocol and use.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

An AED is a portable device that can deliver an electric shock (defibrillation) to the heart to temporarily stop the heart and allow it to resume a normal electrical rhythm. When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs, and death usually occurs. If the cardiac arrest is due to certain electrical rhythms, defibrillation at the earliest possible time may prevent and reduce mortality when used in association with basic life support and advanced life support.

The AED will analyze the victim's heart rhythm for ventricular fibrillation (abnormal electric activity of the heart where the lower chambers of the heart quivers and does not pump blood effectively) and ventricular tachycardia (a heart rate above 150 beats per minute originating in the lower chambers of the heart and also resulting in the heart not pumping effectively) and is able to treat these life-threatening conditions with the delivery of an electric shock.

Deployment

AEDs will be deployed by Field Operations Division personnel. If available, each patrol team/shift should have at least (1) device deployed.

At the start of the shift, the officer will inspect the AED to ensure it is functional and ready for deployment. The functional check will include: ensuring that an AED number tag is affixed to the unit handle, ensure an “OK” battery status through the case window and ensure 2 adult and 1 pediatric sealed pad sets are contained within.

While on duty, the AED will be stored in the patrol vehicle. Only personnel who have received CPR/AED training are authorized to check out and utilize the AED. At the end of the shift, the AED will be returned to the office area and logged back in. The AED shall be returned in a fully functional state and appropriately equipped; any discrepancies shall be noted and the supervisor notified.

When practical, patrol officers responding to a medical call shall carry both the AED and medical bag to the location of the distressed person. If the medical emergency is a cardiac emergency that meets the criteria of the application of an AED, officers shall proceed according to their training.

When officers are responding to a medical emergency, and they encounter perceived threats or danger, officers should manage the threats or danger before proceeding with the emergency medical care.

AED Coordinator & Responsibilities

The Police Department’s AED Coordinator is the Administrative Lieutenant assigned to the Field Operations Division. This person will:

- Serve as the AED liaison to the Santa Clara Fire Department.
- Report AED use by Police Department personnel to SCFD AED Coordinator.
- Work with the Training Manager in order to maintain documentation of all CPR/AED training in Personnel & Training file.
- Maintain AED files in conjunction with SCFD.
- Conduct inspections of all AED’s and associated equipment.
- Ensure faulty/damaged equipment is sent to the manufacturer for repair.
- Ensure that an appropriate amount of AED supplies and forms are maintained.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Assign patrol team member(s) to deploy AED into the field.
- Mark personnel with the AED on the Patrol Assignment Sheet.
- Notify the AED Coordinator of any equipment issues or usages.

Officer Responsibilities

- At least one (1) officer from each patrol team should check out an AED for patrol use. If there are no AEDs available, officers should report this to their supervisor.
- Prior to check out, inspect the AED to ensure it is functional and ready for deployment. The functional check will include: ensuring that an AED number tag

is affixed to the unit handle, ensure an “OK” battery status through the case window and ensure 2 adult and 1 pediatric sealed pad sets are contained within.

- Any problems shall be reported to your supervisor.

After an AED deployment, the officer shall prepare a police report detailing their actions. The police report should include the following information:

- Approximate time CPR was initiated, and by whom.
- Approximate time AED was applied, and by whom.
- A basic over view of the events (Specific details will be downloaded from the AED by SCFD personnel)
- Witnesses to the event.
- Time patient care was transferred.
- Name of qualified agency of care patient was transferred to.
- Santa Clara Fire Department run/report number.

Use of AED

An AED should be used when the patient is: Unconscious and has no pulse.

An AED should **NOT** be used when the patient is: Under 1-year of age, has presence of a pulse, is conscious.

Procedure: All standards of first aid and CPR are to be used in conjunction with AED equipment and actions. If a victim does not meet all AED use criteria, the AED equipment shall not be applied and standard first aid shall be provided. Once the AED is applied to the patient, AED equipment shall remain in place until advanced life support personnel arrives and assumes care for the victim. If necessary, the officer will follow the medics to the hospital. The AED pads should be compatible with the Santa Clara Fire Department monitors.

After use: The AED will be taken by SCFD personnel from the patient at the treating facility. The SCFD AED coordinator will download the internal data, replenish supplies, and ensure the unit is ready to be put back into service. The SCFD AED coordinator will give the AED to the SCPD AED coordinator and the AED will be placed back into service.

Training (Title 22 California Code of Regulations)

The training shall consist of not less than four (4) hours every two (2) years, and shall include the following topics and skills:

- Proper use, maintenance and inspection of the AED.
- The importance of CPR, defibrillation, and advanced life support.
- Assessment of an unconscious patient, to include evaluation of airway, breathing, and circulation to determine cardiac arrest.

- Assessment of an unconscious patient to determine if cardiac arrest has occurred and the appropriateness of applying and activating an AED.
- Information relating to defibrillator safety precautions to enable the individual to administer shock without jeopardizing the safety of the patient or the authorized individual or other nearby persons.
- Recognizing that an electrical shock has been delivered to the patient and that the defibrillator is no longer charged.
- Rapid, accurate assessment of the patient's post-shock status to determine if further activation of the AED is necessary.
- Authorized individual's responsibility of continuation of care, such as the repeated shocks if necessary, and/or accompaniment to the hospital, if indicated, or until the arrival of more medically qualified personnel.
- In order for an individual to be authorized to use the AED, the individual shall pass a written and skills examination to prove competency.