UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

University units with an AED must follow the guidance below and in accordance with RCW 70.54.310.

UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

University units must designate an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) coordinator responsible for ensuring the units are registered and maintained properly, personnel who are likely to use it are trained, use of and AED is reported, and records are kept.

MAINTENANCE

Establish a maintenance program for your AED(s).

1. Refer to the Automated External Defibrillators page on the EH&S website for information on maintenance contracts.

2. Check and maintain your device consistent with manufacturer's guidelines.

3. Chest pads are coated with a gel that breaks down over time, typically between 18 and 30 months depending on manufacturer.

4. The battery life is limited; batteries will need replacing every 2 to 5 years. Since the shelf life of replacement parts vary by manufacturer, these costs should be evaluated when selecting a device.

TRAINING

Most AEDs are designed to be used by a typical bystander or layperson and may be installed in public areas such as building lobbies. However, any University employee who is likely to use an AED is expected to receive training on the use of defibrillators.

EH&S offers First Aid/CPR training courses. For those outside the Seattle area, training may be available from your local fire department, the AED vendor, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, and other agencies.

REPORTING AED USE

After calling 9-1-1, report the AED use to the local public health agency and EH&S.

AFTER USE

The AED must be taken out of service until the chest pads are replaced (the AED will make a chirping sound until the pads are replaced).

The battery must be checked to ensure it still holds ample charge. Do not remove the battery. This will erase all cardiac arrest data in the device.

The unit may require decontamination if exposed to blood or other body fluids.

RECORDS

The AED coordinator must maintain the prescription (if required) medical direction, procurement paperwork, and maintenance records.

MORE INFORMATION

Refer to the Automated External Defibrillators page on the EH&S website for information on selecting, procuring, registering, installing and using an AED.

Contact EH&S at 206.685.0341 or ehsdept@uw.edu for more information.