

Automated External Defibrillator

What is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)?

An AED is a lightweight, portable device used on persons who have experienced cardiac arrest and have no pulse or respirations. It has the ability to detect an irregular heart rhythm and apply an electrical shock (or shocks) to the person's heart in attempt to reset it back into a normal and effective rhythm.

Why are AEDs important?

Studies show that a person's chance of survival decreases approximately 10% for each minute their heart isn't beating and they aren't breathing, so time is of the essence. AEDs, when placed in easily accessible areas, provide almost instant access to potentially life-saving treatment. When combined with early CPR and early access to emergency care, chances of survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest increase from approximately 5% to near 60%.

Who can use an AED?

Anyone with CPR training: a policeman, fireman, doctor, nurse, coach or layperson can apply and use an AED. Voice prompts guide the rescuer through the appropriate steps and AEDs are over 99% accurate in rhythm interpretation-so they won't shock a person unless he or she needs it.

Coconino Community College has two AED's. One is located at the Lone Tree Campus in the Security office. The other is on the Fourth Street campus in the main registration area. We also have pads for pediatric patients.

Over the past few years, new learning as indicated that if a person collapses, there is usually enough oxygen in their blood to sustain necessary levels for a period of time. As a result, medical experts are encouraging the use of Hands-only (Compression-only) CPR over what has been labeled as Traditional CPR, which included compressions as well as ventilations. As you may be aware, CCC has Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) on the Lone Tree, Fourth Street and Page campuses. These are available as a lifesaving tool if the need ever arises. Mark Venutti, the Director of Guardian Medical Transport, suggest that the best practice to close the timeframe between someone going down and the arrival of the AED is to immediately start Hands-only CPR while emergency services are summoned and the AED is brought to the location, as needed, of course.

The below link will take you to a short training video provided by azshare.gov. If you have not already, please take few minutes to watch this and learn the proper method of the new CPR. This link will also be added to the Security Webpage.

http://azdhs.gov/azshare/media_player.htm