Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

What are AEDs?

AEDs, or automated external defibrillators, are small electronic devices that are designed to provide lifesaving defibrillation (electric shock to the heart) to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. They are about the size of a lunch box and have adhesive electrode pads that attach to the victim's chest. Modern AEDs are designed to administer defibrillation only if an abnormal rhythm is detected and will prompt the user with step-by-step audible or visual cues.

AED Locations

There is at least one AED located in every building across SJSU's main campus, South campus, and Moss Landing campus. AEDs are usually located in areas that are easily accessed by both building occupants and the public, such as lobbies. EH&S maintains an inventory of AEDs and updates the inventory regularly.

AED Maintenance

AEDs need to be maintained on a regular basis. Maintenance includes checking and changing batteries, electrode cables, and pads. Every month, EH&S inspects the AEDs to ensure that they are in working order and that the AEDs have all of the required parts. Contact EH&S if an AED in your area is not working properly.

AED Precautions

- No special training is required to use an AED, but in order to provide the prompted CPR compressions, you must have CPR training.
- Follow the spoken instructions from the AED during a rescue.
- Never expose the AED to extreme temperatures as this may cause the AED to not function properly.
- If a child that is 8 or younger and weighs 55 pounds or less requires the use of an AED, use an AED with pediatric defibrillation pads if available. These are included with AEDs located in areas with children support services.
- Do not touch the victim while shock is being delivered. You or someone else could get shocked.
- Do not use an AED on a victim who was in contact with water. Move the victim away from puddles of water, swimming pools, or out of the rain before defibrillating.
- Do not use an AED on a victim lying on a conductive surface. Conductive surfaces, such as sheet metal or metal bleachers, may transfer the shock to others.
- Do not touch the victim while the AED is analyzing. Touching or moving the victim may affect the analysis.
- Do not use an AED in locations where large electromagnetic or radiofrequency (RF) fields can be expected to occur.
- Do not reuse pads after an AED rescue since they may not properly adhere to the victim. Reusing pads may also cause skin burns and improper AED performance.
- Always notify EH&S if an AED has been used.
- Do not attempt to recharge the AED battery.

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