

	Policy & Procedures				No. 1.18	
	Subject:					
	Defibrillator Use					
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Chief of Police				10/01/2009	01/01/2024	
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GENERAL CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES

Canton Police Department Defibrillator Policy has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health- Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and the American Heart Association. This policy and applicable standard operating guidelines and appendixes shall conform to those rules and regulations utilized by the agencies referenced above.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish and formalize the standard operating guidelines that are required by the Office of Emergency Medical Services in order for the Canton Police Department to have, maintain and utilize an Automatic External Defibrillator (**AED**). The policy will identify requirements for training in addition to appropriate maintenance, storage, and use of the AED.

Applicability:

The Defibrillator Policy and applicable Standard Operating Guidelines shall be developed, implemented and maintained by the Canton Police Department in conjunction with the Canton Fire Department. The AED will be available to sworn personnel twenty-four (24) hours a day in case of cardiac arrest.

Canton Police Department's Defibrillator Policy

It is the policy of the Canton Police Department to equip all sector patrol vehicles with AED's and to train all officers in their use in order to provide the public with prompt access to lifesaving equipment in medical emergencies.

DEFINITIONS

- I. **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED):** is a portable electronic device capable of analyzing the presence of abnormalities in the patient's heart rhythm and indicating to the user the need to administer an electric shock. It is used in conjunction with CPR in an attempt to restore cardiac and respiratory function in the field.
- II. **Cardiac Arrest:** A condition that results when the heart stops beating. It is caused by life threatening abnormalities in the heart's electrical system. These abnormalities are most often referred to as arrhythmias.
 - A. **Ventricular Fibrillation** is the most common arrhythmia. With this condition, the heart starts beating so uncontrollably that it is unable to pump blood to the rest of the body or brain. Also known as V-Fib, this state of totally disorganized electrical activity produces a quivering of the ventricles. Because the pumping of the heart in this situation is inadequate, there is no detectable pulse.
 - B. **Ventricular Tachycardia** means a fast heart beat. It is the very rapid contraction of the ventricles that prohibits the heart from pumping blood properly; consequently there is no pulse detected with this patient.
- III. **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR):** is the administration of chest compressions and rescue breathing to circulate oxygenated blood throughout the body.
- IV. **Comfort Care/Do Not Resuscitate (CC/DNR):** an order written by a physician that states when a patient's breathing and heartbeat have stopped, they shall not be resuscitated. No lifesaving measures are to be taken by responding personnel. This form must be located with or near the patient at the time of first responders' arrival.
- V. **Defibrillation:** is the definitive treatment used for patients in cardiac arrest (ventricular fibrillation). It is a brief powerful electrical shock applied to a person's chest, interrupting the abnormal heart beat and allowing the heart's natural rhythm to regain control.

VI. Infectious Disease Control Officer (IDCO): is the officer responsible for the overall maintenance of all departmental AED's. In addition, this officer is responsible for the inventory, ordering and stock of all medical supplies and personal protection items needed in the station and in the individual cruisers. This officer is responsible for making contact with a biohazard cleaning company for any bodily fluid spills in cruisers and cell block areas.

PROCEDURE

I. Defibrillator Location

The Canton Police Defibrillators shall be located in all response police cars. The defibrillators will be located in the passenger area of these vehicles and efforts shall be made to protect them from damage. There will also be a defibrillator located on the wall in the dispatch area.

II. General Considerations

1. Only personnel trained in the use of the AED may operate it.
2. AED's shall only be used in accordance with the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health-Office of Emergency Medical Services and the American Heart Association.
3. AED's shall be maintained and inventoried by the Infectious Disease Control Officer or designee. This officer shall create and update a maintenance log for the AED's.
4. AED's shall be stored in the Supervisor's Office or other designated area when not in a cruiser.

III. Responsibility for Operation and Placement

A. Officers

Upon placement of an AED in a sector cruiser and upon proper training in the use of such, the following shall occur:

1. Officers shall maintain his or her CPR/AED certification through Department scheduled training.

2. Officers assigned to a patrol sector shall ensure his or her cruiser is equipped with an AED.
3. In accordance to his or her training, officers shall inspect the AED to ensure the **OK** indicator light is observed on the readiness display and that the unit is equipped with up-to-date shock pads (the unit should **NOT** be turned on during the inspection).
4. Officers shall immediately report any AED's that are missing, malfunctioning, or otherwise damaged to his or her supervisor.
5. Officers shall remove the defective AED from the cruiser and submit it to his or her supervisor.

Officers are required to take the AED from the cruiser if he or she arrives on a call prior to the Fire Department or if there is a medical assistance call for the following:

1. Unknown Medical
2. Person Down
3. Person Not Breathing/Difficulty Breathing
4. Person Not Responsive
5. Possible Heart Attack

Do Not Start CPR or Initiate Defibrillation if...

- ☐ Person has a pulse;
- ☐ There is a valid CC/DNR on site;
- ☐ Conclusive signs of death are present such as;
 1. Injuries incompatible with life (decapitation)
 2. Body putrefication (i.e. maggots, etc.)
 3. Full body rigor with dependant lividity

Operational guidelines for officers:

1. The AED shall be used in accordance to training and in compliance with the American Heart Association guidelines.
2. Once placed on a patient, the AED shall only be removed from the patient by an EMT, a paramedic, or a doctor.
3. Should the AED be removed on scene, the officer or designee shall bring the unit to the Canton Fire Department- Station 1 and notify their Supervisor and the IDCO by email of its removal.
4. All pertinent information shall be downloaded from the AED computer by a member of the CFD.

B. Supervisors

1. Responsible for storing any defective AED in the Supervisor's Office.
2. Notify the IDCO of any defective AED and shall attach a brief memo to the AED regarding the problem found.

C. Dispatching Officer

After notifying the Canton Fire Department of a medical call for any of the following complaints, the appropriate sector car shall be notified as soon as possible and the information regarding the following shall be relayed to the dispatched officer:

1. Unknown Medical
2. Person Down
3. Person Not Breathing/Difficulty Breathing
4. Person Not Responsive
5. Possible Heart Attack

Should the sector car be unavailable and the Fire Department response delayed, another cruiser with an AED will be dispatched to the call.

D. Infectious Disease Control Officer (IDCO)

Responsible for monthly inspection of AED's in conjunction with the first aid-kit inspections which includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Ensure there is one set of up-to-date adult shock pads per AED
2. Ensure there is one set of up-to-date pediatric shock pads per AED
3. Disposable razor with each AED kit
4. Pair of gloves with each AED kit

This officer shall be responsible for replacing any missing or defective equipment and supplies relating to the AED kits and their operation.

This officer shall be responsible for maintaining a maintenance log for all AED's.

VI. Training

All sworn officers of the Canton Police Department are required to be trained in the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator. Unless otherwise excused by the Chief of Police, officers shall attain defibrillation in-service requirements, yearly.

