

## AED & CPR Training Resources

[www.os2u.com](http://www.os2u.com)

[Sherri.Galle-Teske@redcross.com](mailto:Sherri.Galle-Teske@redcross.com)

[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

[www.aedsuperstore.com](http://www.aedsuperstore.com)

[www.americanaed.com](http://www.americanaed.com)

[www.heartsmartaed.com](http://www.heartsmartaed.com)

AEDs and their supplies may also be found at larger retailers such as Amazon.com and Walmart.com

Portage County Emergency Management can also facilitate the purchase of AEDs for Portage County businesses.

[www.co.portage.wi.us/emergency/](http://www.co.portage.wi.us/emergency/)  
(715) 346-1397

These sites are provided only as examples of organizations and retailers available. Portage County does not endorse any particular site.

# Portage County Emergency Medical Services

## Public Access Defibrillation: Citizens Saving Lives



Frequently Asked Questions about  
placing AEDs in the Community

## **What is an AED?**

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a computerized medical device designed to check an unconscious person's heart rhythm and deliver a life-saving shock if required. The AED uses voice prompts, light and text messages to instruct even untrained bystanders to use it properly.

Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) is the use of an AED by anyone other than a rescuer that is dispatched when 9-1-1 is called (i.e. police officer, first responder, EMT or paramedic).

## **Why are AEDs important?**

When a person suffers a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, each minute that passes without defibrillation, their chance for survival decreases by 7-10 percent. AEDs can restore a normal heart rhythm in Sudden Cardiac Arrest victims.

Calling 9-1-1, Early CPR and Defibrillation are three of the five links in the American Heart Association's Chain of Survival.

Portage County supports the placement of AEDs in locations where groups of people meet, work, study, worship, see a play, take in a movie or enjoy sports.

## **What training do I need?**

No formal training is required but we recommend that staff that may be called upon to use the device complete a CPR class through an agency such as the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Area technical colleges also frequently offer classes.

The CPR class will include information about using an AED.

## **What rules or laws do I have to follow?**

The State of Wisconsin has made it very easy to place an AED in your business or building. There are no formal rules or restrictions about doing it. Portage County EMS asks that you notify us of the unit so that we are aware of it. We can be reached at (715) 346-1399.

## **What do I have to do to maintain the AED?**

Most AEDs are designed to sit in a cabinet with minimal care. The units perform self-checks at regular intervals and notify you (beep) if there is a problem that would make it unusable. Each manufacturer specifies how often the unit should be checked by the owner and at what intervals the batteries and defibrillation pads will need to be replaced.

## **How much does an AED cost?**

The technology of these amazing devices has improved dramatically over the last decade, but the manufacturers are still able to offer them at a reasonable price; particularly when the cost of not having one could be the life of a customer, an employee, one of your family members or perhaps even you!

AEDs retail for \$1,000 - \$2,000.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Feel free to contact the Portage County EMS Coordinator at (715) 346-1399 for more information about our Public Access Defibrillation Program or check out the back page of this flyer for other AED resources.