

# Cal Poly's Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is an AED?**

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable medical device which can restart the heart of a person in cardiac arrest. When properly placed on a person's chest, it can analyze the heart's rhythm and apply an electrical shock if needed. It will not give a shock to a normally beating heart. The AED uses voice prompts, lights and pictures to tell the rescuer the steps to take. The State of California regulates public access to AEDs and requires that policies and procedures be put in place to ensure the effectiveness and availability of AEDs. *All AEDs on the Cal Poly campus are required to comply with California regulations as outlined in the Cal Poly Campus Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program.*

## **Where are AEDs located on campus?**

There are number of buildings on campus that have AED's along with AEDs located on the University Police Vehicles. You can find the location of all AEDs located in buildings by using the map located on our website here: [Google Map of AED Locations](#)

## **Why isn't there an AED in my building?**

Environmental Health & Safety along with the University Police Department (UPD) maintain that the best possible outcome for an unconscious, unresponsive victim is to call 911 and report the medical emergency. The University Police Department has an average response time of 2 minutes throughout most of the campus. The campus contracts with the City of San Luis Obispo Fire Department for emergency medical response (Medics). Each Fire Department response includes fully trained Medics and the nearest Fire Station has an average response time of less than 4 minutes. After calling 911, the first responder should stay with the victim and perform CPR if they are trained and capable of doing so, while waiting for UPD and Medics response.

## **How can I get an AED installed in my building?**

There are responsibilities and costs that come with owning and maintaining a departmental AED. Departments interested in the acquisition of an AED unit should first become familiar with the Cal Poly [Campus AED Program](#), available in a PDF on the EH&S website. While the program provides a greater level of detail of the acquisition process, the basic steps to AED acquisition are:

- Department determines that AED placement is desired, and secures appropriate funding.
- Department designates a Department AED Coordinator to manage site responsibilities.
- Department AED Coordinator submits an AED request (see Appendix 1 of the Cal Poly Campus AED Program) to the Campus Program Manager at the EH&S office.

- The Campus Program Manager will meet with the Department AED Coordinator to go over specific requirements and offer training, maintenance, etc. to comply with California regulations governing AEDs for public use.
- Once the coordination is complete with the above, the Campus Program Manager will meet with the department's AED Coordinator to identify an appropriate location for AED placement.
- The Department AED Coordinator orders AED and initiates Service Request for the installation of the unit.

### **Do I need training to use an AED?**

AEDs are easy to use. Recent changes to the law have relaxed the frequency and type of training required to manage a public access AED program. The new regulations require that demonstration of how to use an AED is offered annually to at least one person associated with the building. This can be in person training, or through a video. Any person who has gone through CPR/AED training or viewed the demonstration of the use of an AED has the skills to successfully use an AED. EH&S can provide demonstration of an AED upon request.

### **What about maintenance of the AED unit in my building?**

The California Code of Regulations mandates that AEDs be inspected every 90 days. The Cal Poly Campus AED Program continues to assure that the AEDs are maintained in good working order and have parts replaced as needed. The maintenance and inspection program is managed by departments that own AEDs, and EH&S will work with campus departments to offer support, guidance and maintenance at their request.

*If you have any questions related to AEDs on campus, email: [Vivian Longacre](mailto:Vivian.Longacre); [vlongacr@calpoly.edu](mailto:vlongacr@calpoly.edu) or call 756-6628.*