

ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE OF ISSUE EFFECTIVE DATE NUMBER

June 2021 Immediately **V.5:35**

GENERAL ORDER

Distribution: All Employees

Subject: **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)**

Index as: AED Defibrillation
Arrhythmia (or Dysrhythmias) First Aid Training
Automated External Defibrillator (AED) First Responder
Body Substance Isolation Good Samaritan
Cardiac Arrest Police Training Specialist
Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Safety and Training Officer
CPR

Accreditation Standards: 41.3.2, CFA 10.13
Cross Reference: [G.O. II-14, Maintenance and Repair of Vehicles and Equipment](#)
[I.O. V.5:22, Infectious Diseases](#)
Replaces: I.O. V.5:35 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (June 30, 2021)

This Order consists of the following sections:

- I. Purpose
- II. Definitions
- III. AED Program
- IV. Responsibility
- V. Inspections
- VI. Training
- VII. AED Use Procedures

I. PURPOSE

A. In order to facilitate public health and safety, Officers, as first responders, may have to utilize life-saving procedures and devices to stabilize a victim until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) can arrive. The purpose of this Directive is to define procedures governing the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). These procedures apply to St. Petersburg Police Department members trained in CPR and the use of AEDs.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – An automatic, portable, battery-powered device attached, via electrodes, to the upper chest of persons in cardiac arrest or arrhythmia that analyzes the heart’s rhythm for abnormalities and, if necessary, directs the rescuer to deliver an electrical shock to the victim. This shock, called defibrillation, may help the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm of its own. The AED provides continuous monitoring to protect against the recurrence of arrhythmia following resuscitation.

B. Arrhythmia (or Dysrhythmias) – Problems that affect the electrical system of the heart muscle, producing abnormal heart rhythms. They can cause the heart to pump less effectively.

C. Body Substance Isolation – Is a practice of isolating all body substances of individuals who might be infected with a communicable disease.

D. Cardiac Arrest – The sudden, abrupt loss of heart function. Unless a normal heart rhythm is restored, death will follow within a matter of minutes.

E. Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) – An emergency procedure, performed in an effort to manually preserve intact brain function, until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing, in a person in cardiac arrest.

F. Defibrillation – A process in which an electronic device gives an electric shock to the heart. This helps re-establish normal contraction rhythms in a heart having dangerous arrhythmia or in cardiac arrest.

G. First Aid Training – Is Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

III. AED PROGRAM

A. The Equipment Room, Uniform Services Bureau, is responsible for overseeing the AED program. Responsibilities include:

1. Monitoring the tracking and assignment of AEDs.
2. Assigning an available AED to a sworn employee

B. An employee leaving employment with the St. Petersburg Police Department shall will return their assigned AED to the Equipment Room, USB as indicated on the [J:\Forms\Exit Clearance Form \(Sworn\).pdf](J:\Forms\Exit Clearance Form (Sworn).pdf).

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

A. As a first responder, an Officer **will** respond to all life-threatening emergency incidents. An Officer **will** initiate CPR and, where available, deploy the AED if cardiac arrest is suspected.

B. A non-sworn employee, who has received current training in CPR and AED procedures, may respond to life-threatening emergency incidents, including **those requiring** CPR and AED use, as “Good Samaritans” at their discretion.

C. Any employee who uses a Department AED is required to activate EMS, as soon as possible, via the Emergency Communications Center or by calling “911.” EMS activation may be done by the responding **member**, or designee.

D. **The** Supervisor **will** respond to all life-threatening emergency incidents in which the AED is deployed under their command.

1. To ensure public health and safety, the Supervisor **will** ensure, whenever possible, that emergency aid is administered.

2. If EMS is not already activated, the Supervisor, or designee, **will** immediately activate the EMS system, via the Emergency Communications Center, or by calling “911.”

3. When the AED is used to render medical aid, the Supervisor will ensure that an Incident Report is **completed**.

4. After each AED use, the Supervisor, or designee, will ensure that the electrodes are replaced.

a. Backup electrodes in the AED case will be used for immediate replacement.

b. The AED will be turned in to the Equipment Room.

1) The Training Division will have the data downloaded by the St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue

Department.

2) Once the data has been downloaded, the AED will be returned to the Equipment Room. **The Equipment Room** will return it to the Officer.

IV. INSPECTIONS

A. AEDs assigned to physical locations will be routinely inspected by designated personnel. (See [I.O. V.5:35 Automated External Defibrillator \(AED\) Attachment A](#))

1. AEDs located at SPPD Headquarters are inspected by the Maintenance Unit, Administrative Services Bureau.

2. The inspections of AED assigned to offsite locations are the responsibility of the respective Unit or Division Supervisor.

B. An Officer assigned an AED is responsible for routinely inspecting the expiration status of the AED battery and electrode pads.

1. Supervisors will assist the AED inspection process during line inspections and will ensure the AED battery check is documented.

C. To assist the inspection process, AEDs are equipped with a blinking green LED “ready light,” located in the circular window on the front of the AED case, and an audible “chirp” alarm when the AED’s battery and/or pads are expired.

1. The expected life of the AED battery is approximately four (4) years after installation.

2. The same AED battery may be retained as long as the battery “install-by” date has not exceeded four (4) years and the malfunction indicator LED light and audible alarm are absent.

3. A replacement AED battery and replacement pads can be obtained from a Police Training Specialists or the Equipment Room.

D. The Equipment Room maintains a master inventory list of Department AEDs.

1. An employee leaving employment with the St. Petersburg Police Department will return their assigned AED to the Equipment Room, as indicated on the [J:\Forms\Exit Clearance Form \(Sworn\).pdf](#).

V. TRAINING

A. The Training Division coordinates the initial and refresher CPR and AED training. This training may be facilitated with the St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue Department.

1. All personnel assigned to a sworn classification will complete CPR and AED training prior to assignment.

2. Training in CPR and the use of the AED is made available to all civilian personnel who request it.

B. Refresher training will be given to all certified personnel every two years.

VI. AED USE PROCEDURES

A. Standard health care “universal precautions” are to be followed. Consider all blood and body fluids as potentially infectious. Practice universal precautions, such as body substance isolation (BSI), by wearing latex gloves and using a CPR mask. (See [I.O. V.5:22, Infectious Diseases](#))

B. Bring the AED to the victim’s side.

C. Turn on the AED; follow the voice prompts and deliver a shock when directed to do so.

D. **Begin CPR** if the voice prompts do not direct the delivery of shocks to the victim, and if the victim is unconscious and not breathing and/or has no pulse.

Anthony Holloway
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