

Policy 317 Automated External Defibrillator

317.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The intent of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program is to provide early defibrillation for the unconscious and pulseless patient. Defibrillation at the earliest possible time may prevent or reduce mortality when used in association with basic life support and advanced life support EMS system resources. South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue (Fire Authority) will be responsible for initial certification on the AED, periodic refresher training, and post incident critiques. The quartermaster will be responsible for maintaining adequate supplies for the devices.

317.2 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

It is the policy of the Mountlake Terrace Police Department to respond to incidents of unconscious and/or pulseless patients when the need is indicated and to render assistance until the arrival of EMS trained personnel. Employees will utilize CPR and AED devices according to the guidelines of the American Heart Association and consistent with established training procedures. The deployment of an AED device shall not be mandatory and based upon the discretion of employees.

317.3 DEPLOYMENT

AED devices will be located in the shift supervisor's vehicle and the police department near the holding area. As part of the pre-shift inspection the shift supervisor will ensure the AED has adequate supplies and check the battery condition. The AED device is sensitive to heat over 120 degrees and under 30 degrees. These temperature conditions may wear down the battery life in a short period of time. Should an AED be found in inoperable status it will be brought to the quartermaster for diagnosis.

Annually the quartermaster will inspect the AED devices to ensure they have adequate battery life and proper supplies.

SUPPLEMENTAL EQUIPMENT

- Microshield
- Alcohol prep pads
- Disposable razor
- Shears
- Hand towel

PROCEDURE FOR USE

- a. Patient Indication
 1. Unconscious and pulse less
- b. Contraindications
 1. Under 1 year of age
 2. Presence of pulse
 3. Conscious patients

PROCEDURE

- a. All standards of first aid and CPR are to be used in conjunction with AED equipment and actions
- b. Responding personnel shall be responsible for accurately assessing the patient to determine if AED use criteria is met
- c. If the patient does not meet AED use criteria, the AED equipment will not be applied and standard first aid shall be provided
- d. Once applied to the patient, AED equipment shall remain in place until advanced life support personnel with necessary ECG equipment and defibrillation equipment assume care of the patient
- e. The highest medical authority will make the ultimate decision to keep the AED in operation, or replace it with an alternate defibrillator

PATIENT HAND-OFF PROCEDURES

EMS personnel shall take over defibrillation operation upon arrival as appropriate. Personnel yielding AED operations shall give a brief report to EMS personnel assuming control. The report shall include relevant information to include the patient's condition, complications, down time, and shocks delivered.

DOCUMENTATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The EMS officer in charge will be responsible for completing appropriate medical forms including the patient and defibrillation information.

At the conclusion of an AED deployment an informational report will be completed by the employee to document usage and the circumstances surrounding the incident.

317.4 TRAINING

Employees will undergo an initial training course in the use of automated external defibrillators. Training shall include the following content:

- The proper use and maintenance of the AED
- Defibrillator safety precautions
- Assessment of an unconscious person to determine if cardiac arrest has occurred
- The appropriateness of applying the AED
- Rapid, accurate assessment of the patient's post shock status to determine if further activation of the AED is necessary
- The employee role after EMS has arrived
- Scenario-based practice consistent with common situations that personnel may be faced with
- Trouble-shooting options and special situations employees may encounter