

OLDS COLLEGE PROTOCOL

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

PURPOSE

Olds College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and community members.

This protocol will help ensure the Olds College emergency responders, managers and employees understand the purpose of an AED, the legislation governing their use, the maintenance and training required to use AED's safely and effectively.

BACKGROUND

An AED is a machine that can monitor heart rhythms. It can tell if the heart has stopped beating effectively. If required, the machine can deliver an electric shock to the heart. Most of the time, this shock will restart the heart.

The AED machine is made for those with little or no medical training. The AED machine was developed in an attempt to greatly improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation. The AED machine must be used in combination with CPR and is part of the first aid training and emergency response planning. Olds College has two AEDs in part because the Emergency Responders may take longer than five minutes to respond to first aid emergencies on campus.

LEGISLATION

AEDs have been approved for sale by Health Canada, Medical Devices Bureau.

Alberta Workplace Health and Safety supports the use of AEDs provided the employer ensures that AED use is integrated into the first aid program and the emergency response plan and can be safely used in the specific work environment intended (not in a flammable situation).

In Alberta, both the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code and the Emergency Medical Aid Act provide legislation for their use.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code is the umbrella legislation for all occupational health and safety legislation. The Code provides standards including first aid hazard assessment, numbers, qualifications and training of first aiders.

The Emergency Medical Aid Act supports first aiders rendering emergency first aid assistance at the immediate scene of an accident or emergency.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Executive – are responsible for funding AEDs, their maintenance and for funding appropriate training.
2. The Management Team – is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient numbers of first aiders and that those who may be required to use an AED are trained.
3. The Registered Nurse (RN) – is responsible to respond to medical emergencies, to provide leadership in first aid, to develop a first aid plan, to monitor the numbers and training of first aiders, to arrange for training and for first aid practices, and to restock first aid kits. The RN is the AED Program Coordinator. As such, the RN will coordinate the AED program with external Emergency Responders, is responsible to ensure the AEDs are charged including inspecting the window of AED machines monthly, changing the batteries as required, ensuring they are in working order, and to follow up after the AED has been used.
4. The First Aiders – are responsible to practice their skills at the level for which they are trained, to ensure their first aid kits are complete and respond to first aid emergencies as required.
5. Campus Security – are responsible to ensure they have current first aid training and to respond to medical emergencies. They are responsible to take the AED to emergencies.
6. Director, Health and Wellness Services – is responsible for ensuring his employees are aware of the location of the AED and the emergency response phone numbers – 8225 and 911.
7. All Members of Olds College Community – are responsible for reporting any tampering with an AED, contacting the emergency operator at 8225 for any medical emergencies, and responding to medical emergencies after notifying the Emergency Operator where this is within the scope of their abilities.

AEDs

1. Location – One AED is located in Campus Security and the other is located outside the gymnasium in the Ralph Klein Centre.
2. Authorized Users – all staff who have Standard First Aid, CPR, and AED training
 - The RN who has current BTLs;
 - Campus Security; and,
 - First Aiders.
3. Maintenance of AEDs – will be completed monthly by the RN.
4. Training required to use AEDs – Standard First Aid with CPR and AED training, annual CPR and AED training.
5. Record Keeping – records on the maintenance and use of the AED will be kept by the RN. Statistics will be provided to the Director, Human Resources and Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.
6. Program Evaluation – will be conducted by the RN and forwarded to the Director, Human Resources and Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

PROCEDURE

USE - Use when there is an apparent LACK OF CIRCULATION indicated by:

- Unconsciousness; and
- Absence of normal breathing; and
- Absence of a pulse or signs of circulation

When the victim is less than 8 years of age or weighs less than 55 pounds (25kg), the AED should be used with the AED plus Pediatric Electrodes. Therapy should not be delayed if the exact age or weight is unknown.

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR USE- Do NOT use the AED when the victim:

- Is conscious; or
- Is breathing; or
- Has a detectable pulse or other signs of circulation