


POLICY 136.0	AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)	
	NEW: 06/21	RELATED POLICIES:
	CFA STANDARDS:	REVIEWED:

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

B. POLICY

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, early defibrillation is often critical to the patient’s survival. Automated External Defibrillators allow for the deliverance of life-saving shocks to patients with a minimal amount of training.

It is the policy of The Fort Lauderdale Police Department to provide guidelines for the use and care of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) – A portable device used to analyze the heart rhythm of a patient and administer an electrical shock during ventricular fibrillation.
2. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) – The manual application of chest compressions and ventilations to patients in cardiac arrest.
3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest – The sudden abrupt loss of heart functions; generally caused by a rapid, irregular rhythm of the ventricles causing the ventricles’ inability to pump blood to the body. A loss of consciousness and pulse will follow within seconds.
4. Ventricular Fibrillation – Very rapid, uncoordinated, ineffective series of contractions throughout the lower chambers of the heart. Unless stopped, these chaotic impulses prove fatal.

D. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all members of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department who have successfully completed the AED training course.

E. PROCEDURE

Equipment Deployment Coordination:

1. The Police Supply Supervisor or their designee will maintain a log of all Department approved/deployed AED devices to include the following;
 - a. Serial numbers
 - b. Assigned AED devices
 - c. Locations of stationary devices

F. TRAINING

1. All officers and public safety aides will receive training in the use of an AED during the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training process.
2. New officers and public safety aides will receive AED training following their employment start date and prior to engaging in patrol duties.

G. AED USE

1. Personnel utilizing an AED should utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) when in contact with a patient.
2. When arriving at a scene of a medical emergency, personnel shall immediately survey the surroundings for employee and patient safety.
3. Upon initial assessment, ensure that emergency medical personnel are enroute.
4. Initiate CPR if the patient is unresponsive with no breathing and no pulse. The AED should be used when the patient is unconscious, not breathing, and there are no signs of circulation. Exceptions to the above would be persons that are obviously deceased (decapitation, rigor mortis, decomposition, etc.).
5. Refer to the manufacturer's directions on the operation of any AED device. Personnel shall follow the AED device's verbal prompts and commands.
6. After utilizing an AED device, Department personnel shall not remove the electrodes or disconnect the AED from the patient.
7. Once emergency medical personnel arrive, they will assume responsibility for the medical care of the patient and will use the AED and electrodes in accordance with their protocol.

H. REPORTING

After utilizing an AED device while acting in an official capacity, a supervisor shall be immediately notified and an Offense Report completed.

I. MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

1. Officers who are assigned AED devices shall inspect them prior to starting every shift in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. For stationary AED devices located at the main police station, Building Maintenance staff shall inspect the devices monthly to ensure a state of readiness.
3. For stationary AED devices located at Department off-site locations, the Bureau Captain (or their designee) responsible for the location shall inspect the devices monthly to ensure a state of readiness.
4. If an AED device is inoperable or the battery in a state of low charge, the AED device shall be taken to Police Supply for service or replacement.