

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use at UK

An AED (automated external defibrillator) is a piece of medical equipment used to treat cardiac arrhythmias and cardiac arrest. It automatically diagnoses the heart's rhythm to determine if a shock needs to be administered to a person, and will deliver that shock if needed. As technology for this equipment has improved and the cost to purchase them has decreased over the last several years, more AEDs are being used in public and private settings.

While studies done by the American Heart Association (AHA) show that AEDs can in fact save lives, the use of onsite portable AEDs may not always be the most effective care that can be provided to someone in cardiac arrest on our campus. The Ontario Pre-hospital Advanced Life Support Study (OPALS) is the gold standard in cardiac arrest studies. It found that locations that were able to provide optimal rapid defibrillation (emergency personnel administering shock in less than 8 minutes) were effective in the survival of a person suffering from cardiac arrest. Ability of EMS to respond quickly, CPR and AED training, and the appropriate placement of maintained AEDs are important keys in the improvement of survival. Many areas on the University of Kentucky's campus have less than an 8 minute response time for emergency personnel and therefore an AED may not be necessary. UK Occupational Health & Safety requires that departments submit an official [request form](#) for approval before procuring an AED so that a review of your specific need for having this regulated piece of equipment can be done.



Why should Occupational Health & Safety be contacted before a department/building purchases an AED?

OH&S wants to ensure that AED boxes are installed in easily accessible and visible areas so that trained staff can locate and access them quickly. We also want to make sure that they are maintained appropriately and used in a safe manner. This means that each building or area that has or intends to procure and AED has someone assigned to manage the equipment and perform all other duties that are required by law when in possession of one.



What are the regulations that must be followed if an AED is purchased?

Kentucky State law (HB 49; KRS Chapter 211) requires the following:

- If you acquire an AED you must inform an agent of the local emergency medical services system and the local emergency communications or vehicle dispatch center. The location and type of AED acquired must be given to this agent (i.e. local 911/dispatch).
- People that will be expected to use the AED must be properly trained in CPR and AED use.
- Maintenance and testing of the AED must be done in accordance with the guidelines set by the manufacturer of the AED equipment.
- Oversight of your AED program must be by a physician who is licensed to practice in the state of Kentucky.
- If the AED is used for emergency care or treatment for a person in cardiac arrest, the local emergency medical services system must be notified as soon as possible. The licensed physician performing oversight of your AED program must also be informed. Access the link below for the complete KY statute regarding AEDs: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/Statrev/ACTS2000/0016.pdf>



Where can we get trained for AED use?

UK Occupational Health & Safety suggests receiving AED use and CPR training from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Other entities can provide training as long as they provide equivalent nationally recognized courses.

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/aed.html>

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3012360>



Does Kentucky have a Good Samaritan law in regards to the use of an AED?

Yes, the state of Kentucky does have a Good Samaritan law for AED use. This law provides immunity from civil liability for any personal injury that results from the use of an AED for treatment or care as long as they are not grossly negligent in this care. If you have any additional questions about AED use, requirements by law, or if you currently have an AED in your building, please contact **UK Occupational Health & Safety at 257-3827**. We will be happy to provide assistance or make recommendations about AED procurement or use.