



**ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GENERAL ORDER
DEFIBRILLATOR USAGE**



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To: All Deputy Sheriffs & Personnel
 From: Sheriff Carl E. DuBois
 Subject: General Order - Defibrillator Usage

PURPOSE: The purpose of this General Order is to define the Orange County Sheriff's Office policy and procedure for the proper use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

I. POLICY.

A. It shall be the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office that the use of the Medtronic LifePack 500 or its equivalent be granted to members that maintain a level of training as set forth by the State of New York. The use of this equipment will be authorized when performing first aid on a patient experiencing cardiac arrest. The use will be in compliance with New York State Department of Health and the Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Service Council's protocols. For the purpose of defibrillation, the Orange County Sheriff's Office adopts New York State Department of Health and the Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Service Council's protocols as General Operating Procedures for the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

II. PROCEDURE.

- A. No member of the Orange County Sheriff's Office shall operate any defibrillator until they have received the proper training and have successfully completed an approved certification course.
- B. Defibrillators will be properly stored in the AED medical cabinet in the squad room and at designated locations such as the Identification Unit, the Investigations Unit and in a select number of marked Sheriff's Office vehicles.
- C. At the start of patrol duties certified Deputies shall inspect the defibrillator in their assigned vehicle (if so equipped). Deputies shall insure that the defibrillator is in good condition and operating properly. Any damaged components will be immediately reported to a supervisor.

- D. If the defibrillator is used on a patient, this use shall be documented on an incident report and any defibrillator related equipment should be replenished. (Example: shock pads)
- E. Any activation of the A.E.D. should be reported to the S.O.G. TEMS Squad Leader for reporting in accordance with HVREMSCO P.A.D. protocols.
- F. The defibrillators will be inspected and tested quarterly, and the results will be recorded and forwarded to the supervisor of the AED program.

III. CRITICAL CONCEPTS: SPECIAL SITUATIONS IN AED USE.

- A. **WATER:** If the victim is lying in water (for example, a wet surface around a swimming pool), shocking on this type of surface may cause burns or shocks to the victim or rescuers. The attending Deputy shall remove the victim from contact with water. They should then dry the victim's chest quickly before attaching the AED.
- B. **METAL SURFACES:** If the victim is lying on a metal surface, try to move him/her because all metal conducts electric current. There is a small but unlikely risk of the electric charge shocking a rescuer or bystander.
- C. **CHILDREN:** If the victim is younger than (8) years old, the electric energy settings of AEDs are often too high. For children under (8) years of age the use of the AED is not a practical option. The AED shall not be used in pediatric cardiac arrest.
- D. **TRANS-DERMAL MEDICATIONS:** Placing an AED electrode pad on top of a medication patch may block delivery of shocks or cause small burns to the skin. If a Deputy encounters this type of situation s/he should remove the patch and wipe the area clean before attaching the AED.
- E. **IMPLANTED PACEMAKERS OR DEFIBRILLATORS:**
These devices create a hard lump beneath the skin of the upper chest or abdomen. The lump is about half the size of a deck of cards and usually has a small overlying scar. Placing an AED electrode pad directly over an implanted medical device may reduce the effectiveness of defibrillation. Attending Deputies should place the electrode pad at least 1 inch to the side of any implanted device.

IV. RESPONSE AND EVALUATION OF SITUATION.

- A. The Communications Division will dispatch the nearest available unit to a report of an unconscious person on the assumption that the incident could involve a cardiac arrest situation requiring AED intervention.
- B. Deputies or employees who come upon an unconscious person will consider

the incident to be a possible cardiac arrest situation.

- C. Deputies or employees shall use the following guidelines when arriving on scene at a possible cardiac arrest situation.
1. Call for emergency medical service (EMS) personnel, staging them until such time that the scene is determined safe.
 2. Responding Deputies or employees shall evaluate the scene to determine if the scene is safe before proceeding with any type of assistance.
 3. Upon determination of a safe scene, responding Deputies shall evaluate the totality of the circumstances to determine whether or not to use an AED or attend to more serious life threatening duties as deemed necessary by the Deputy's perceptions based upon their training and experience.
 4. Responding Deputies or employees shall evaluate the victim to determine what type of assistance (First Aid, CPR, or AED) if any should be given, and proceed with such.
 - (a) If determined, the AED is needed, Use as trained.
 - (1.) Prepare the victim for use of the AED as trained.
 - (2.) Follow the Operational Protocols.
- D. If Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel arrive before the defibrillation protocol is complete, the Deputy or employee will continue the protocol as directed by the AED until EMS personnel acknowledge that they are assuming responsibility for further treatment of the patient.
1. Upon arrival of EMS personnel the Deputy or employee should immediately begin a dialogue briefing them on the patient's condition, what AED intervention has occurred thus far, and provide any other information they may request.
 2. The actual transfer of treatment should be coordinated, occurring at a mutually convenient time when both the Deputy and the EMS personnel are prepared to make the transfer.

V. OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS.

- A. The operation of the AEDs will be performed as directed in the American Heart Associations – HEARTSAVER AED for First Responders training curriculum and certification course.
- B. The four Universal steps for operating an AED are:
1. Power on the AED.
 2. Attach the adhesive electrode pads to the victim's chest.

3. Analyze the victim's rhythm.
4. Charge the AED and deliver the shock (IF INDICATED).
5. Follow the directions as given by the unit.

VI. DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS.

- A. EMS Field Personnel (EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P and pre-hospital RN) are authorized to recognize a valid "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order". Deputies and employees are not required nor authorized to recognize a valid DNR Order and will initiate AED intervention unless told otherwise by the above EMS Field Personnel or by an on scene practicing physician.

VII. DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Deputies shall include in the following information in their Blotter.
 1. Date & Time of Incident
 2. Patient's age & sex
 3. Estimated time of cardiac arrest to 1st AED shock
 4. Estimated time from cardiac arrest to CPR
 5. Number of shocks administered to patient
 6. Transport ambulance service
 7. Patient outcome at scene (Remained unresponsive / Became responsive).