AED Use Steps

Automated external defibrillators (AED) can help save lives during sudden cardiac arrest. In order to help keep your skills sharp, this quick step-by-step guide is posted next to the AED.

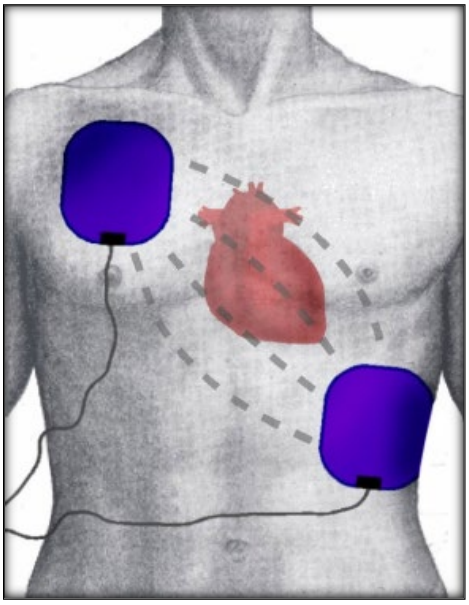
BEFORE USING THE AED

After checking the scene and ensuring that the person needs help, you should ask a bystander to **Call 911** for help.

Use standard precautions including gloves, breathing barrier and eye protection as necessary.

AEDs are for use on anyone in cardiac arrest. Pediatric (child) pads are preferred for children under age 8 or under 55 pounds. If pediatric (child) pads are unavailable, use the standard pads to save a life.

USING THE AED



1. Turn on the AED and follow the visual and/or audio prompts.
2. Open the person's shirt and wipe his or her bare chest dry. If the person is wearing any medication patches, remove the patches before wiping the person's chest.
3. Attach the AED pads to the victim as illustrated.
4. Make sure no one, including you, is touching the person. Tell everyone to **"Stand Clear."**
5. Allow the AED to analyze the person's heart rhythm.
6. If the AED recommends that you deliver a shock to the person, make sure that no one, including you, is touching the person – and tell everyone to "stand clear."
7. If trained, begin **CPR** after delivering the shock. Or, if no shock is advised, begin CPR. Perform 2 minutes (about 5 cycles) of CPR and continue to follow the AED's prompts. If you notice obvious signs of life, discontinue CPR and monitor breathing for any changes in condition.

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