

# Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

## Purpose

The availability and prompt use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) has been shown to result in dramatic improvement in the chance of survival for victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The chance for successful defibrillation decreases 7-10% for each minute that emergency response is delayed. The proper use of AEDs by DRI staff may shorten the response time, and potentially save lives.

Defibrillation is the definitive treatment required to resuscitate a patient with a shockable electrocardiographic (ECG) rhythm. Dependent on the situation, other supportive measures may include:

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Administration of supplemental oxygen
- Drug therapy (ACLS)

Although the above procedures should be used only by trained personnel, AEDs are relatively easy to use, and are provided for use by all DRI staff, whether or not they have CPR training.

## Location of AEDs

DRI facilities in Las Vegas and Reno are equipped with AEDs in public places. The locations of the AED cabinets:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| NNSC -            | First Floor Building A, Outside Stout Conference Rooms<br>Stairway Landing between Building B First and Second Floors<br>Second Floor at hallway entrance to room 250 (Fitness Room)<br>Third Floor across from 313A                     |
| GBERL -           | Second Floor adjacent to lobby stairs  |
| Maxey -           | First Floor, north end of the hallway on the SE side of the building<br>(where Maxey ties into the Maxey addition)<br>Second floor adjacent to ACES (near reception desk)<br>Second floor adjacent to the Maxey Addition Conference Room |
| CVRB-             | First Floor by Janitor's Closet, Room 121<br>Second Floor by ladies room near the lobby<br>East Interior Stairway landing  |
| SNSC Phase 1 –    | First Floor Lobby<br>Second Floor Administration Hallway<br>Second Floor North Hallway adjacent to Stairway  |
| Rogers Building - | Third Floor Rotunda adjacent to Break Room<br>Second Floor Multipurpose Room<br>First Floor Lobby  |
| Boulder City -    | Stairway Landing at entrance between First and Second Floors   |

# Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

## Explanation of the Use of AED

An AED performs the following:

- Analyzes the victim's cardiac rhythm
- Automatically charges and delivers a shock after detecting the presence of cardiac arrhythmias
- Continuously records the cardiac arrhythmia at the scene

All AEDs at DRI are the Zoll AEDPlus model. An easy-to-follow instruction sheet is provided in each AED cabinet. Although training in CPR is preferable, any staff member may use an AED.

Note that the AED is to be used only on patients in cardiopulmonary arrest. Before using the AED, the patient must be:

- Unconscious.
- Without a noticeable pulse.
- Without spontaneous respiration.

## Procedure for using AEDs

### Call (or have someone else call) 911<sup>1</sup>.

To prepare for ECG analysis and defibrillation:

1. Verify that the patient is in cardiac arrest (unconscious, no respiration, no pulse)
2. Remove AED unit and instruction sheet from its cabinet. (**NOTE:** A loud alarm will sound. To silence alarm, close the cabinet door).
3. Turn on the AED unit. A green light will illuminate, and the unit will perform a self-test.
4. AED unit voice prompts will direct the user through the following procedures, as necessary:
  - "Check Responsiveness"
  - "Call for Help"
  - "Open Airway. Check Breathing. Give two breaths."
  - "Check Circulation"
  - "Attach Electrode Pads"
  - "Don't touch patient. Analyzing"
  - Either "No Treatment Advised" or "Treatment Advised. Don't Touch Patient. Press Treatment Button."
  - "Stop Treatment"

Follow the screen messages/illustrations and voice prompts provided by the AED.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: on the NNSC and SNSC campuses, if 911 is called, 4411 must also be called. At the Boulder City Facility, call 702-862-5400 during work hours or 702-429-4011 after normal work hours.

# Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

## **Provisions to Coordinate with Local EMS**

In the event of a cardiopulmonary emergency, 911 should be called as quickly as possible. Staff members with appropriate training (first aid, CPR, life support) should provide initial care as required, and coordinate with emergency medical service providers upon their arrival.