



A Guide to Controlling Risk

Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

- Laws
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- Program Recommendations
- Additional Resources, Links and Information

Automated External Defibrillators

An **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is a small, portable device that can deliver an electric shock to restore a human heart to a normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) events.

AEDs are becoming more common in public places around us. This RiskWise provides resources and information to help agencies identify risks and concerns, and to offer a framework for making informed decisions about AED use.

Laws

Oregon Laws regarding AEDs are occasionally updated by the Legislature. The primary statutes are [ORS 431A.450](#), [ORS 431A.455](#), and [ORS 30.802](#).

These laws (most recently updated in 2017) require AEDs to be placed in certain public assembly areas.

Public assembly areas are defined as a single building 50,000 square feet or larger where:

- The public gathers in groups for deliberation, shopping, entertainment, amusement, or transportation; **OR**
- Business activities take place during business hours and at least 50 individuals gather on a normal business day.

Note: Locations used for worship or education associated with worship are excluded. However, [ORS 431A.455](#) requires higher education campuses to have at least one AED in gathering areas.

The **US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)** requires a prescription for the purchase of an AED.

Check the FDA's database to determine whether a prescription needed (see resources at the bottom of page 2).

When looking to obtain an AED, the [State Procurement Office](#) has purchase agreements in place. Contact your agency procurement staff for a list.

For more information about the Code of Federal Regulations related to AEDs, visit:

[CFR 870.5310](#) Title 21 Chapter 1, FDA Medical Devices CFR - Code of Federal Regulations Title 21.



Risks and Goals

- AED users may try to perform life-saving measures beyond their level of training or comfort.
- Agencies may have inconsistencies in how they manage their AED programs.
- Agencies may not meet statutory requirements.

The goal of an effective agency AED program is to increase the survival rate of individuals who suffer a SCA by ensuring consistent application of policies, procedures, and training. Effective AED programs deliver a shock to a victim within 3 to 5 minutes of collapse.



Program Recommendations

We recommend your AED program include the following.

- **Develop a plan** that incorporates the best practices outlined in the *American Heart Association AED Implementation Guide*.
- **Assign a dedicated** agency program coordinator.
- **Consider obtaining medical oversight** from a licensed physician for your AED program.
- **Notify local EMS** about the location of the AED within your building.
- **Notify local EMS immediately** after each use of the AED.
- **Debrief** after each AED use to evaluate whether the process worked as intended. Make changes as necessary to integrate best practices for your location.
- **Maintain a schedule** for the AED and supporting supplies.

Over 350,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest every year. Up to 50,000 could be prevented by immediate AED use

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- **Provide high-quality training** for onsite responders.
- **Use volunteers as responders** to maintain immunities under the Good Samaritan Act, [ORS 30.800 through 30.805](#).
- **Follow the manufacturer's guidelines** for testing and maintenance of the AED.
- **Ensure enough trained staff** are available so at least one is present during regular business hours.
- **Store the AED** in an easily accessible location during regular business hours.
- **Clearly mark the presence and location** of each AED at your site.
- **Establish a policy** to activate EMS and 9-1-1 as soon as the need for the AED arises.



Additional Resources, Links and Information

US-FDA Pre-market Searchable Database Link - [USFDA 510\(k\) Premarket Database](#) . Type "AED" into the "Search For" window for a list of approved devices.

OSHA Guidance and Information on [AED in the workplace](#)

[OR-OSHA Overview of CPR](#) training and other related topics such as First Aid.

American Heart Association AED Implementation Guide and other useful resources - [AED Implementation Guide](#)

Learn about Automated External Defibrillators — [American Red Cross About Automated External Defibrillators](#)

CDC — [Public Access Defibrillation](#)

[Pulse Point AED](#) Mobile Application, helps located AEDs in your area.

[FDA-Cleared AED Manufacturers](#)—below
[Cardiac Science](#)
[Defibtech](#)
[HeartSine Technologies](#)
[Philips Healthcare](#)
[Physio-Control](#)
[ZOLL Medical Corporation](#)



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www.oregon.gov/das/Risk/Pages/Index.aspx

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We commit to be KNOWLEDGEABLE, RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIVE in business and interactions.

[<https://www.oregon.gov/das/Risk/Pages/PubsToolsRes.aspx>]