

## AED's

Let's say it all together: Automatic External Defibrillators, commonly known as AEDs—the layman's version of the paddles on the doctor show where they say, "CLEAR!" right before they shock the guy. More and more recycling facilities are adding AED's to their health and safety programs. Is an AED right for your operation?

When AEDs are placed in a business the American Heart Association strongly encourages that they be part of a program in which:

- Persons that acquire an AED notify the local EMS office.
- A licensed physician or medical authority provides medical oversight to ensure quality control.
- Persons responsible for using the AED are trained in CPR and how to use an AED.

It's important for the local EMS system to know where AEDs are located in the community. In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest emergency, the 9-1-1 dispatcher will know if an AED is on the premises and will be able to notify the EMS system as well as the responders already on the scene.

Early CPR is an integral part of providing lifesaving aid to people suffering cardiac arrest. CPR helps to circulate oxygen-rich blood to the brain. After the AED is attached and delivers a shock, the typical AED will prompt the operator to continue CPR while the device continues to analyze the victim.

An AED operator must know how to recognize the signs of a sudden cardiac arrest, when to activate the EMS system, and how to do CPR. It's also important for operators to receive formal training on the AED model they use so that they become familiar with the device and are able to successfully operate it in an emergency. AEDs are manufactured and sold under guidelines approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA may require someone who purchases an AED to present a physician's prescription for the device.

The price of an AED varies by make and model. Most AEDs cost between \$1,500–\$2,000.

For information about AED training contact your local Red Cross or American Heart Association.

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