Policy on Automatic External Defibrillators at SLAC

Automatic External Defibrillators (AED’s) have been installed in several buildings at SLAC (015, 034, 084, CID) at the request of some building managers and employee groups.

Some “Sudden Cardiac Arrests” lead to a condition known as “ventricular fibrillation”, under this particular condition an AED can be used to provide an electrical shock to defibrillate the heart and restore a normal heart rhythm. Studies have shown that the availability of an AED can greatly increase the chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest.

Purchase of and AED requires a prescription from the SLAC physician. The SLAC Medical Department and Emergency Management Coordinator must approve the installation of any AED’s at SLAC. To ensure continuity, all AED’s installed at SLAC will be the same model. (Philips Heartstream FR2+) The cabinets containing the AED’s will be connected to the fire alarm system. When you open the cabinet an “AED alarm” will be received by the fire department that will dispatch a fire engine and ambulance to the facility.

There is currently one model of AED that is available without a prescription. This is not the model recommend for installation at SLAC.

Good Samaritan laws protect persons who use AED’s in an emergency. Any facility at SLAC installing an AED must also ensure that there are persons in the facility that have received CPR/AED training from the American Heart Association or Red Cross. This training can be scheduled by visiting the ESH training web page. [http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/training/](http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/training/)

Keep in mind that the fire station at SLAC has an AED and can respond 24 hours a day.

The AED is constantly performing self-diagnostics to ensure its serviceability. There is a status indicator on the top right of the AED that indicates its serviceability. If the indicator shows a flashing hour-glass shape, the AED is in service. If a flashing “X” is shown, the AED needs maintenance. If neither of these indicators are shown then the AED has been damaged. (These indicators are applicable to the Heartstream FR2+ AED’s used at SLAC)

The individual who purchased the AED is responsible for ensuring the serviceability of the AED in their building or facility.

- This status indicator should be checked daily.
- The unit should be removed from the cabinet and inspected monthly.

The pads that come with the AED are in a sealed container. Do not remove the pads from their package unless you intend to use them. Each AED come with two sets of pads in separate packages. The pads are coated with a gel that ensures a proper conductivity.
when providing a shock. If the pads are dry they can burn the skin and should not be used.

For information regarding AED’s see the National Center for Early Defibrillation web site: http://www.early-defib.org/default.asp