

Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process, AEDs, and Defibrillation

What are the specific requirements for people being trained in CPR or CPR/AED?

You must demonstrate that citizens at your workplace have been trained and are currently certified by an accredited training program (American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety Health Institute).

What if I can't get copies of CPR class rosters?

A signed letter from a certified instructor attesting to the date, location, number trained and certified, and type of course will be accepted.

What is an AED?

An AED is a device used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart. Built in computers assess the patient's heart rhythm, judge whether defibrillation is needed, and then administer the shock if appropriate.

Who can use an AED?

Most AEDs are designed to be used by non-medical personnel who have been properly trained.

Will an AED always resuscitate someone in cardiac arrest?

An AED treats a fibrillating heart that is experiencing an irregular heartbeat. In cardiac arrest, where the heart has stopped beating, the heart does not respond to electric currents but needs cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Is an AED safe to use?

An AED is safe to use by anyone who has been trained in its operation. They are designed with multiple safeguards and warnings before any energy is released. However, there are potential dangers associated with AED use, which is why proper training and maintenance are essential.

Can anyone buy an AED?

Yes, however, AEDs are manufactured and sold under guidelines approved by the FDA. Current FDA rules require a physician's prescription to purchase nearly all AEDs. AED manufacturers can usually recommend a physician from which to obtain the one-time prescription.

How much does an AED cost?

There is a range of AEDs on the market. Some are designed for medical professionals and are priced higher than the AEDs that can be used by the general public. The average cost of a public access AED is between \$600 and \$2,000.



Glossary of Terms

Advanced Life Support Personnel: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedics currently certified by the State of Connecticut.

AED (Automated External Defibrillator): A semi-automatic or automatic defibrillator which guides the user through the steps of defibrillation. This device recognizes life threatening heart rhythms and advises the user to shock or not shock the victim.

AED Placement: Placing an AED on site or in an area where it is readily available to use in an emergency. AEDs are light-weight, sturdy, and easy to use.

Basic Life Support (BLS) or (EMT): Entry level of pre-hospital emergency medical provider. EMTs focus is on rapid in-field treatment and transport to higher medical providers and use noninvasive assessments and interventions.

Chain of Survival: Four links that have been documented to increase the chances of survival for cardiac arrest victims: early access to emergency care, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation): CPR is the provision of rescue breathing and chest compressions to individuals suffering from cardiac arrest. It is a simple, easily learned emergency procedure designed to keep the victim's brain and heart supplied with blood and oxygen until medical help arrives.

CPR Training: Certification training provided by either the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or through Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), or Paramedic.

Defibrillation: The delivery of an electric shock to restore a heart's normal rhythm.

Early Access to Emergency Care: This involves the ability of bystanders to recognize the symptoms of cardiac arrest and call 9-1-1 immediately. It also means that EMS dispatchers are equipped with instructions for the caller and can get an Advanced Life Support response vehicle to the scene quickly.

Early CPR: CPR, when properly administered, buys precious minutes until a defibrillator is available. Public knowledge and awareness must be increased so that those trained in CPR will actually use it when it is needed.

Early Advanced Care: Advanced care is delivered by a response vehicle staffed by advanced life support personnel (Advanced EMTs or Paramedics). Advanced care is a way of providing many of the emergency room procedures in the field in a timely manner, thereby increasing the chances of survival for the victim.

Early Defibrillation: Defibrillation is the delivery of an electric shock to restore the heart's normal rhythm. Early defibrillation is a critical link in the chain of survival.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Officially designated system for the provision of emergency response in a community for the first responder, basic and advanced life support services.

First Responder: Officially designated first responder emergency service for a municipality. May be EMS, fire or police response vehicles.

Heartbeats: Minimum number of points required for designation as a HEARTSafe Community. Heartbeats are based upon community populations and a list of other requirements intended to improve the survival outcomes or individuals experiencing cardiac emergencies.

HEARTSafe Community: A community that has documented the "Chain of Survival" links to address cardiac emergencies for its citizens. These links include early access to emergency care, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care. Community is defined as one of the officially designated 169 municipalities in Connecticut. Individual neighborhoods or sections within the 169 municipalities will not be accepted.

ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI): A severe heart attack caused by a prolonged period of blocked blood supply that affects a large area of the heart. These attacks carry a substantial risk of death and disability and call for a quick response by many individuals and systems.

12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG): A test using a device that measures the electrical activity of the heartbeat and can help medical personnel determine if a heart attack has occurred and whether the heart attack was a STEMI or non-STEMI event. When a 12-lead ECG is done, 12 wires (leads) are attached to the arms, legs and chest. These wires each record electrical impulses, but from a different position in relation to the heart.

Good Samaritan Law

Sec.52-557b. "Good samaritan law". Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

(a) A person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the provisions of chapter 370 or dentistry under the provisions of section 20-106 or members of the same professions licensed to practice in any other state of the United States, a person licensed as a registered nurse under section 20-93 or 20-94 or certified as a licensed practical nurse under section 20-96 or 20-97, a medical technician or any person operating a cardiopulmonary resuscitator or an automatic external defibrillator, or a person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or in the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association, who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency medical or professional assistance to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to exempt paid or volunteer firefighters, police officers or emergency medical services personnel from completing training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or in the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the standard set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. For the purposes of this subsection, "automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (1) Is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (2) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (3) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (4) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

(b) A paid or volunteer firefighter or police officer, a teacher or other school personnel on the school grounds or in the school building or at a school function, a member of a ski patrol, a lifeguard, a conservation officer, patrol officer or special police officer of the Department of Environmental Protection, or emergency medical service personnel, who has completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, and who renders emergency first aid to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency first aid, which may constitute ordinary negligence. No paid or volunteer firefighter, police officer or emergency medical service personnel who forcibly enters the residence of any person in order to render emergency first aid to a person whom such firefighter, police officer or emergency medical service personnel reasonably believes to be in need thereof shall be liable to such person for civil damages incurred as a result of such entry. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(c) An employee of a railroad company, including any company operating a commuter rail line, who has successfully completed a course in first aid, offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, and who renders emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injury or death which results from acts or omissions by such employee in rendering the emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.



(d) A railroad company, including any commuter rail line, which provides emergency medical training or equipment to any employee granted immunity pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall not be liable for civil damages for any injury sustained by a person or for the death of a person which results from the company's acts or omissions in providing such training or equipment or which results from acts or omissions by such employee in rendering emergency first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(e) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "cartridge injector" means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions. (2) Any volunteer worker associated with, or any person employed to work for, a program offered to children sixteen years of age or younger by a corporation, other than a licensed health care provider, that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, who (A) has been trained in the use of a cartridge injector by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, (B) has obtained the consent of a parent or legal guardian to use a cartridge injector on his or her child, and (C) uses a cartridge injector on such child in apparent need thereof participating in such program, shall not be liable to such child assisted or to such child's parent or guardian for civil damages for any personal injury or death which results from acts or omissions by such worker in using a cartridge injector which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. (3) A corporation, other than a licensed health care provider, that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, which provides training in the use of cartridge injectors to any volunteer worker granted immunity pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not be liable for civil damages for any injury sustained by, or for the death of, a child sixteen years of age or younger who is participating in a program offered by such corporation, which injury or death results from acts or omissions by such worker in using a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(f) A teacher or other school personnel, on the school grounds or in the school building or at a school function, who has completed both a course in first aid in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and a course given by the medical advisor of the school or by a licensed physician in the administration of medication by injection, who renders emergency care by administration of medication by injection to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to the person assisted for civil damages for any injuries which result from acts or omissions by the person in rendering the emergency care of administration of medication by injection, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(g) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any teacher or other school personnel to render emergency first aid or administer medication by injection.

(h) Any person who has completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any director of health, as certified by the agency or director of health offering the course, or has been trained in the use of a cartridge injector by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, and who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency assistance by using a cartridge injector on another person in need thereof, or any person who is an identified staff member of a before or after school program, day camp or day care facility, as provided in section 19a-900, and who renders emergency assistance by using a cartridge injector on another person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in using a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. For the purposes of this subsection, "cartridge injector" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators

Public Act No. 09-59

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened.

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 52-557b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2009):

(a) A person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the provisions of chapter 370 or dentistry under the provisions of section 20-106 or members of the same professions licensed to practice in any other state of the United States, a person licensed as a registered nurse under section 20-93 or 20-94 or certified as a licensed practical nurse under section 20-96 or 20-97, a medical technician or any person operating a cardiopulmonary resuscitator or [an automatic external defibrillator, or] a person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [or in the use of an automatic external defibrillator] in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association, or a person operating an automatic external defibrillator, who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders emergency medical or professional assistance to a person in need thereof, shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence. A person or entity that provides or maintains an automatic external defibrillator shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of the person or entity in providing or maintaining the automatic external defibrillator, which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence. With respect to the use of an automatic external defibrillator, the immunity provided in this subsection shall only apply to acts or omissions involving the use of an automatic external defibrillator in the rendering of emergency care. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to exempt paid or volunteer firefighters, police officers or emergency medical services personnel from completing training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or in the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the standard set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. For the purposes of this subsection, "automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (1) Is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (2) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (3) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (4) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

Approved May 20, 2009

