



## De-Fibrillation Policy

### Purpose

This policy is designed to help SWVFA minimize the risks of serious harm, injury, or death through the provision of information regarding de-fibrillation.

This information is not intended to displace the advice or knowledge of medical professionals. In all relevant instances and circumstances the SWVFA will defer judgement to any present medical professionals or practitioners. This policy is purely to provide background knowledge on cardiac arrest, de-fibrillation, and Automatic External Defibrillator's (AED's).

### Policy Statements

The sudden loss of heart function is known as Cardiac arrest and may be accompanied by the person collapsing and stopping breathing normally. This is a result of the heart no longer pumping blood around to the vital organs of the body.

**IF A PERSON IS EXPERIENCING A HEART ATTACK OR MORE SERIOUS CARDIAC ARREST, CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000) IMMEDIATELY FOR AN AMBULANCE.**

Cardiac arrest may be recognizable if the person is:

- 1) Unconscious and/or unresponsive
- 2) Has no pulse
- 3) Has absent or abnormal breathing

Early access to defibrillation is noted to be one of the crucial factors to support in the successful resuscitation of heart attack victims. The invention and provision of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) has allowed potential of defibrillation of the heart by first aid personnel, vastly improving response time to persons in cardiac arrest.



An AED is a small, portable device specifically designed to deliver a controlled electrical shock to a person experiencing certain cardiac arrhythmias. An AED can be purchased by organisations of all types to enhance their first aid response and capabilities, as they have been designed for use by the general community without formal training, and are equipped with both visual and verbal instructions to guide the operator. AEDs must be used in conjunction with CPR.

**Remember:**

- 1) Anyone can use a defibrillator – they have verbal and visual instructions to guide you.**
- 2) You cannot hurt someone by using a defibrillator.**
- 3) A defibrillator only shocks a person who is in cardiac arrest.**

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is the technique of chest compressions combined with rescue breathing. The Australian and New Zealand Committee on Resuscitation recommends that bystander CPR be actively encouraged, as early CPR saves lives. Resuscitation using the steps DRSABCD should be followed for cardiac arrest and is taught in all first aid courses in Australia. It is important that first aid skills are up to date with relevant SWVFA officials.

Any individual can try to save the life of someone who is experiencing cardiac arrest by acting quickly to restore the heartbeat through both CPR and defibrillation.

**If you believe someone has suffered a cardiac arrest, take can take the following immediate action:**

- 1) Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance and assistance over the phone**
- 2) Begin CPR as soon as possible by pushing hard and fast in the centre of the chest.**
- 3) Shock using a defibrillator as soon as possible to restart the heart.**

**Procedures**

**Storage and Maintenance of AEDs**

- 1) Each AED will be stored in clean, dry, and moderate temperature conditions.
- 2) Each AED unit is kept in a kit bag, housed inside a wall mounted case.



- 3) Each AED unit will undergo regular maintenance checks, as well as regular checks/refurbishment of consumables and accessories.
- 4) AED status logs will be kept for each unit and will indicate each date the AED is checked, the status of the unit, and the initials of the person who performed the check.
- 5) No one other than the authorized supplier shall attempt any repairs other than the standard replacement of a battery or accessory.
- 6) If an AED exhibits an operational problem or a malfunction, it should be immediately removed from service. Operational problems or malfunctions shall be reported without delay to the external provider to be rectified.

#### **Use of AEDs**

- 1) AEDs are only for use on victims of sudden cardiac arrest, when the patient is unconscious, unresponsive and there are no signs of life.
- 2) AED's should only be used by trained First Aid Staff who hold a current certificate, or any other medical professionals present.
- 3) Standard procedures as outlined in the relevant training courses or AED instructions shall be followed while using the AED.
- 4) A simple maintenance check is to be carried out on a regular basis, and after the AED has been used on a patient.
- 5) Each incident that involves the use of an AED should be recorded and reported immediately afterwards by the First Aid Officer to the Executive Committee and President and documented on as an Incident Report.
- 6) Adverse events and complaints should also be reported and documented. Including AED failure or malfunction, grossly negligent handling of an incident or inappropriate behaviour and reckless or intentional misuse of or interference with AED equipment.

**Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation shall be provided as appropriate until the emergency services or other competent medical authority arrive to assume responsibility.**



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