

## Public Access Defibrillation

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are lightweight, portable devices, which provide an electrical shock capable of restoring the normal heart rhythm of cardiac arrest victims. On-the-spot access to this device for people who suffer a cardiac arrest has been found to be a key to survival. Wisconsin Statutes allows for the purchase, maintenance and use of AEDs in the public setting. Such places may include, but are not limited to, long-term care facilities, rural health clinics, community health centers, post offices, libraries and other civic centers, athletic facilities, senior citizen and day care facilities, faith-based organizations and schools.

§895.48(4)(ag) Wisconsin Statutes, provides for civil immunity for certain persons who use, own and/or provide the public access semiautomatic defibrillators. A layperson (other than a trained provider such as an emergency medical technician or first responder) can use a public access defibrillator to provide emergency care to an individual who appears to be in cardiac arrest.

## What Can You Do??

1. Get close to victim
2. Check responsiveness, if no response...
3. Tell someone to call 911
4. Place hands in center of chest, push hard and fast at a rate of 100 compressions a minute until more help arrives
5. This may save a person's life!

**For free training on  
CCR or questions**

**Give us a call!**

**608-884-3327**

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608-884-3327  
For more information visit  
[www.edgertonfire.com](http://www.edgertonfire.com)

**Edgerton Fire  
Protection District**

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest**



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since 1883"*

## What is sudden cardiac arrest?

### Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is usually caused by an electrical malfunction of the heart called ventricular fibrillation.

Ventricular fibrillation causes a quivering of the heart muscle that makes it unable to pump blood through the body. Once the blood stops circulating, a person quickly loses consciousness and the ability to breathe, and will die without effective treatment.

### How common is sudden cardiac arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen to anyone, anywhere, any time. Every day in the United States, it strikes about 1,000 people. Tragically, almost all of them die, making SCA, a leading cause of death. In fact, some experts commonly refer to it as sudden cardiac death.

## What is the treatment for sudden cardiac arrest?

The only effective treatment is an electric shock to the heart called defibrillation. The electrical current can interrupt ventricular fibrillation and allow the heart's normal rhythm to regain control.

Defibrillation is most effective if it is applied within three to five minutes into sudden cardiac arrest. With each passing minute, the likelihood of recovery drops about 10 percent. After 10 minutes, one's chance of survival falls to about 2 percent.

While defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator (AED) is important, we also encourage immediate cardiocerebral resuscitation (CCR), "hands only" or "compression only" CPR. Place hands in center of chest, push hard and fast at a rate of 100 compressions a minute. This can improve the success of the AED and improve chances of survival.

People who survive sudden cardiac arrest have a 30 to 50 percent chance of having a second one. That is why they are often referred to an electrophysiologist, a heart rhythm specialist, to receive an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD).

## Is sudden cardiac arrest the same as a heart attack?

No.

Sudden cardiac arrest is usually caused by ventricular fibrillation, an electrical malfunction of the heart.

A heart attack occurs when plaque or clots block blood flow to the heart. Although the heart continues to beat, irreversible damage to the heart muscle begins within 15 to 30 minutes. The longer the blood flow is interrupted the more extensive the damage done. Treatment for heart attack includes angioplasty – using a tiny balloon to widen blocked vessels – and 'clot-busting' drugs known as thrombolytics.

