

11.3 SEMI-AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (SAED)

There has been a significant increase in Cardiac Arrest incidents involving Firefighters over the past few years. Not only do we need to concern ourselves at Incidents, but we must face the reality of a Cardiac arrest that can occur at training sessions or at the firehouse. This Procedure establishes the use of the Semi-Automated External Defibrillators (SAED) for Fire Department Personnel of the Washington Township Fire Department to promote firefighter safety and also to provide a SAED to a patient who has suffered from cardiac arrest in order to increase the chances of survival.

11.3.1 Qualifications

11.3.1.1 Firefighters who wish to become certified in the use of the SAED must have a current Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Certification (CPR). Acceptable courses include:

- BLS Health Care Provider (AHA)
- Professional CPR (ARC)
- CPR Pro (ASH! or National Safety Council)
- Heart Saver AED (AHA)
- AED (American Safety and Health Institute)

The New Jersey Board of Health has accepted all of the aforementioned courses.

11.3.1.2 Must meet the Medical Director's protocols and procedures

11.3.1.3 Certification in NJ First Responder or Emergency Medical Technician is preferred, however, is not required.

11.3.1.4 Those certified in the use of the SAED must perform "in-house" continuing education every sixty (60) days, which shall be no less than thirty (30) minutes duration. The Company Training Officer must maintain a record of the training.

11.3.2 Responsibilities

11.3.2.1 Firefighters who are certified to operate the SAED shall ensure that the device is in ready condition at all times. This will include preferred daily checks to ensure operable condition and that adequate supplies are with the device.

11.3.2.2 Firefighters are responsible for knowing the importance of "Early Arrival" of the SAED during a cardiac arrest situation.

11.3.2.3 Each Fire Company shall delegate at least two firefighters to oversee SAED uses and procedures, at least one being a line officer.

11.3.2.4 All Firefighters are to ensure all medical precautions are in place prior to using the SAED.

- 11.3.2.5 Resuscitation equipment must also be used in conjunction with the SAED. (Oxygen, Bag Valve Mask, etc.)
- 11.3.2.6 Career Staff shall conduct daily checks of the SAED.
- 11.3.2.7 The SAED shall be stored inside an area that would be considered safe from damage or excessive movement, in a dry cool place and in an area where solvents or other chemicals cannot be expose the device.
- 11.3.2.8 Under no circumstances shall the SAED be removed from the assigned location unless that person has authorization from the Company Chief.

11.3.3 Protocol for the use of the SAED

- 11.3.3.1 Upon arrival at a scene, the Firefighter shall immediately assess the scene and patient. He/She shall update the communications center ASAP of the situation found and medical treatment being performed.
- 11.3.3.2 Should a patient be found in “Cardiac Arrest” (Pulseless and breathless), the SAED shall be connected as per training, treatment protocols, and manufacturers information. Once the SAED in connected to the patient, the Fire Department is responsible for the reporting and documentation procedures (State Form).
- 11.3.3.3 Medical care shall be turned over to the highest level of provider care (i.e. EMT, Paramedic, Nurse, Doctor, etc.)
- 11.3.3.4 Upon arrival of the Squad and/or medics, the firefighter shall give a detailed report, detailing patient information and condition and actions taken.
- 11.3.3.5 Patient information must be obtained for reporting purposes. This can be accomplished by conversing with the BLS or ALS personnel.
- 11.3.3.6 The SAED **will not** be attached to a patient under the following circumstances:
 - 1. Patient with a pulse
 - 2. Hazardous or Flammable environments
 - 3. Patient less than 90 pounds
 - 4. Patient in Water
 - 5. Obvious signs of death (as per training)
 - 6. Confirmed DNR order

11.3.4 Reporting Procedures

- 11.3.4.1 Each Fire Company shall assign two firefighters to oversee the Company SAED Program. At least one of the members must be a line officer.

11.3.4.2 In the event a firefighter uses the SAED on a patient, he/she must notify one of the SAED officers and complete an Incident report detailing the event. The Data card will then be removed so the SAED officer can print out the SAED information. This will be conducted by personnel who are trained with the Software. The report must be forwarded to the following, within 24 hours:

1. The receiving Hospital where the patient was transported to
2. The AED / Medical Director Coordinator at the Hospital
3. Fire District Office
4. Chief of Company

11.3.4.3 In the event the computer is not functioning or no SAED officers are available, the firefighter shall contact the Ambulance Squad for assistance in completing the report.

11.3.5 Equipment

11.3.5.1 The SAED utilized by the Washington Township Fire Department is the Laerdal Heartstart FR2 SAED.