

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

SECTION: HEALTH AND SAFETY

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EMERGENCIES- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR **REF:** 4.4.9b

DEFINITION:

An Automated External Defibrillator (**AED**) is a medical device designed to shock an individual's heart to help restore the heart rhythm.

POLICY:

In an emergency situation, when an individual loses consciousness and is unresponsive or suffers from sudden cardiac arrest, designated NFI staff may use the AED device to help improve survival odds prior to EMS arrival.

NFI follows general guidance from Vermont Department of Health (VDH), the American Red Cross, the VT AED law, and VT Education law:

1. Program must train staff to use the AED, as “lay responders” *. (Agency sponsored CPR/First Aid Training meets criteria).
2. Training must be approved by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, or a nationally recognized CPR/AED course.
3. Programs should ensure that at least one AED trained staff member is on site during program operation hours.
4. AED device must be mounted in an accessible area of the building, with an AED sign posted next to the device.
5. The AED device must be maintained and tested in accordance with the applicable standards of the manufacturer. For example, replace pads and batteries when indicated.
6. Each program that owns or leases an AED shall **notify VDH and the regional ambulance service/first responder services of the existence, location, and type of AED device the program possesses.** (See online- *Automated Defibrillation registration form*)
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2af83e6f2d4747f8a5ffa050d189313c/>

Under H.480 (Act 72) (2025), AED devices are required for all NFI Schools. However, an AED device is NOT currently a requirement for all NFI program sites.

PROCEDURE: (for use of AED)

A program staff person shall be certain that emergency personnel have been summoned by calling 911 prior to initiating use of the AED device.

Within 3-5 minutes of a collapse:

Call 911

Perform CPR

Activate/Apply the AED

Post use of the AED device, program staff must document the (incident), according to program protocols:

- If the individual is a client of NFI, the program must also contact their PCP.
- If the individual is a minor and client of NFI, the program must also contact their PCP and legal guardian.

*Good Samaritan Law: “Lay responders” or individuals acting in good faith and who have complied with the agency protocols, to protect others from harm/injury, are not liable for civil damages for that person’s acts or omissions unless those acts or omissions were grossly negligent or willful and wanton.

New Policy 8/22/24. Cardiac arrest Survival Act 2000, VT Statutes-Title 18: Health, Ch.017 Emerg Medical Services, Automated External Defibrillators (907). Updated 8/2026 to ensure compliance with H.480 Act 72 (2025).
Reviewed and Approved By NFI Vermont Board of Directors on 9/10/24.

4.4.9b