



## ***Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Standard***

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

This standard supports the Emergency Response Planning Policy and specifies the requirements for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at SaskPower.

### **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

#### **2.1 Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**

An AED is a small, portable device that analyzes cardiac rhythms and when appropriate, delivers an electrical counter-shock therapy.

#### **2.2 Defibrillation**

Defibrillation is an electrical shock that is administered by an automated external defibrillator to restart the heart. The delivery of an electrical shock to a heart experiencing sudden cardiac arrest briefly stops all electrical activity in the heart. This brief "break" from the previous electrical chaos can be enough for the heart to restart beating with a normal rhythm.

#### **2.3 Emergency Medical Care**

The provision of treatment to patients, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support, advanced life support and other medical procedures that occur before arriving at a health care facility.

#### **2.4 Heart Fibrillation**

Heart fibrillation is a medical condition where the electrical pulses of the heart are disrupted from SCA, causing the heart to vibrate continuously, rendering it unable to pump blood.

#### **2.5 Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)**

A Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart itself stops beating. It is fatal unless treated quickly and the only effective treatment for SCA is early defibrillation.



### **3.0 METHOD / PRACTICE**

#### **3.1 Selection**

- The Corporate Safety Department, supported by local Division Management shall:
  - Conduct risk based assessments for worksite AEDs and provide recommendations for quantity and location.
  - Assist with the selection of SaskPower approved AEDs.

#### **3.2 Program Development**

- The Corporate Safety Department, supported by each area shall:
  - Assist in setting up an inspection protocol
  - Assist in setting up a maintenance program
  - Provide information on training in the use of AEDs and recertification
  - Provide a list of approved AED instructors in the health region
  - Lead and participate in a post-incident review after a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) has occurred and an AED is used
  - Recommend / offer debriefing and required support following an incident
  - Facilitate development of a local activation plan

#### **3.3 Equipment Requirements**

- The purchase of AEDs shall be coordinated with the health region and shall be compatible with the local EMS.
- AEDs shall be:
  - CSA approved
  - Electromagnetic compatible in electromagnetic fields
  - Capable of recording and retrieving information
  - Suitable for proposed location

#### **3.4 Training**

- Users of AEDs shall be identified at the local level and be provided with approved training.
- A list of competent trainers for AEDs shall be identified and maintained by the Corporate Safety Department.
- Training is valid for three years.

#### **3.5 Inspection and Maintenance**

Monthly inspections of worksite AEDs shall be performed by local personnel, with the support of the Corporate Safety Department. Each area that has an AED will assign the inspection duty to a position within that department.



## **4.0 REFERENCES**

- Saskatchewan
  - *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*
- SaskPower (located on SafetyNet)
  - Emergency Response Policy
  - AED Directive November 2013
  - Maintenance Checklist for Automated External Defibrillator
  - AED Maintenance Requirements Information Bulletin November 2013
- Third Party
  - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region PAD Program (websites)
  - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (websites)
  - Manufacturers of AEDs (websites)