



# University Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy

## No. 5450

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**Affected Parties:**  
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## 1.0 Purpose

Virginia Tech is committed to the health and safety of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. According to the American Heart Association more than 350,000 people in the United States experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year, with sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) affecting more than 250,000 individuals annually.

Widespread deployment of automated external defibrillators (AED) allows community members to provide early defibrillation to victims in the first critical moments after a SCA. Use of an AED does not replace the care provided by EMS but is meant to provide a lifesaving bridge during the first few critical minutes it takes for advanced life support providers to arrive.

This policy will provide continuity and consistency across all Virginia Tech locations in AED selection, installation, and maintenance.

## 2.0 Policy

In Virginia, the law protects people who operate an AED at the scene of an emergency, in good faith, without compensation, and in a reasonable manner, from civil liability.

The Division of Public Safety is responsible for implementation of this policy. The Associate Vice President (AVP) for Public Safety, or designee, has the authority to select and manage all automated external defibrillators (AEDs) pursuant to this policy.

### 2.1 Additional Responsibilities

The Division of Public Safety is responsible for university oversight of the AED program. The Office of the AVP for Public Safety will review any questions regarding the location, maintenance, or utilization of AEDs for compliance with this policy.

New AEDs and devices that have been replaced due to reaching their end of life (EOL) will be managed through the university AED program, administered by the Division of Public Safety. Replacing an AED due to damage or theft will be the responsibility of the department or unit who is responsible for the space.

### 2.2 Scope

This policy applies to all AEDs located within University Real Property; including facilities, infrastructure, grounds, and public spaces owned or controlled by the university.

### 2.3 AED Program Operations

The Division of Public Safety manages the procurement, installation, and ongoing maintenance of AEDs within university real property. All AEDs that are registered with the university AED Program will be replaced at EOL.



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In accordance with this policy and the Virginia Tech Design and Construction Standards, all newly constructed Virginia Tech buildings will include one or more AEDs based on industry best practices for AED placement. Initial AED installation costs for new or substantially renovated buildings will be included in the building project cost.

All AED installations are subject to applicable federal and state laws.

Departments or units responsible for the space may propose the placement of new AEDs within new and existing buildings; these proposals shall be reviewed by the Office of the AVP for Public Safety. Additional information, including guidelines and criteria for the placement and procurement of AEDs, is available on the [AED website](#).

Departments or units shall coordinate with the Division of Public Safety to maintain all AEDs registered in the university AED Program.

### 3.0 Procedures

#### 3.1 Installation

Individual colleges, departments, programs, or campus organizations requesting AED equipment shall submit a written request to the Division of Public Safety for consideration within the university's AED program. Prior to the installation of AED equipment, a representative from individual colleges, departments, programs, or campus organizations shall meet with a Public Safety designee to discuss unit needs and appropriate placement. The Division of Public Safety will prioritize requests based on risk exposure and fulfill selected requests within available funding constraints. Units may request that existing AED equipment be adopted into the university's AED program, subject to approval by the AVP for Public Safety.

AEDs purchased and installed by departments without pre-approval must be reported to the Division of Public Safety in order to maintain a holistic university inventory. AEDs purchased without prior approval of the Division of Public Safety are the responsibility of the purchasing department. At the determination of the Division of Public Safety, departmental installations may subsequently be added into the university's AED program for monthly inspection and maintenance. Replacement costs of these units may be the responsibility of the department.

AEDs purchased and installed that do not meet the university AED equipment requirements will be taken out of service.

#### 3.2 Training and Awareness

The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad (VTRS) coordinates training classes as part of their existing program of CPR/AED courses on the Blacksburg campus. Virginia Tech employees and students are encouraged, but not required, to attend a training session. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) also provides CPR/AED training for employees who are required by safety and health regulations to have such training; the [EHS Training website](#) has additional information.

EHS maintains a list of qualified organization(s) across the Commonwealth which can provide training. Departments or units outside the Blacksburg area, including ARECs and Extension offices may contact Public Safety ([publicsafety@vt.edu](mailto:publicsafety@vt.edu)) for assistance in locating or scheduling appropriate training programs.

#### 3.3 Operation and Reporting

In order to provide effective maintenance and replace used components as soon as possible, the Division of Public Safety maintains a database of AEDs located on university real property and tracks the use of AEDs.



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When an AED is removed from its cabinet and/or it is used during an emergency medical response, the Division of Public Safety should be notified of the incident via email ([AED@vt.edu](mailto:AED@vt.edu)). The AED equipment will be inspected to confirm it remains in operable condition.

### 4.0 Definitions

University Real Property: any location, either permanent or temporary, owned or leased by Virginia Tech, and includes satellite campuses and offices. This includes, but is not limited to, the buildings, grounds, infrastructure, outdoor spaces, and the surrounding perimeters including the parking lots, field locations, classrooms, alternate work, or class locations.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED): A computerized medical device that 1) analyzes heart rhythm to detect the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia, 2) is capable of determining, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed, and 3) automatically charges and requests delivery of an electrical impulse to an individual's heart, upon determining that defibrillation should be performed.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR): a specific procedure administered by EMS personnel or trained individuals, intended to prolong or save the life of an individual who is undergoing cardiac arrest.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA): a significant, life-threatening event during which a person's heart stops or fails to produce a pulse. The primary cause of sudden cardiac arrest is ventricular fibrillation, a condition in which the heart's normal electrical signal becomes erratic, causing the heart to cease pumping blood effectively. When this occurs, defibrillation, or restoring the heart's natural rhythm by applying an electrical shock, is the best treatment of SCA.

### 5.0 References

Virginia Tech AED Program Website

<https://publicsafety.vt.edu/AEDprogram.html>

Environmental Health and Safety Training

<https://ehs.vt.edu/Trainings.html>

Code of Virginia (§ 8.01-225)

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title8.01/chapter3/section8.01-225/>

### 6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved August 15, 2011 by Vice President for Administrative Services, Sherwood G. Wilson.

- Revision 1
  - Updated sections 2 and 2.2.1 to remove initial implementation information.
  - Updated titles and other technical corrections.

Approved July 11, 2016 by Vice President for Administration, Sherwood G. Wilson.

- Revision 2
  - Revised policy in its entirety to reflect enterprise-wide changes to the AED Program.

Approved April 23, 2025 by Associate Vice President for Public Safety, Michael Mulhare.