

Polson City/Rural FIRE DEPARTMENT Operating Guidelines

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328.00 Automatic Deliberator

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Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines: There are a couple different kinds of AED's that the department operates. Lifepak 500/Defibtech DDU-100

PURPOSE: The purpose of these **guidelines** are to give guidance to those members of Polson City/ Rural Volunteer Fire Department also known as Polson Fire Department (PFD), who are trained and willing to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the event such use is needed. These **guidelines** are not to create an obligation to use such AED's nor to create any expectations that either an AED or a trained member will be present and/or able to use an AED even if a condition arises making the use of an AED beneficial. It is the hope of the Polson Volunteer Fire Department that by increasing the availability of AED's, and the persons trained to use them that both the department and the larger community may benefit. This is because of the evidence that onsite responders are more likely to arrive quicker than Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to incidents of "sudden death." Therefore, by equipping and training members in the use of AED's we will increase the potential to save lives through AED intervention. These **guidelines** are intended to provide the rescuers with a uniform procedure to follow when responding to potential "sudden death" incidents and in intervening with an AED.

DEFINITION: "Sudden Death" is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction causing a disturbance in the heart's electrical rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). This erratic and ineffective electrical heart rhythm causes complete cessation of the heart's normal function of pumping blood resulting in sudden death. The most effective treatment for this condition is the administration of an electrical current to the heart by a defibrillator, delivered within a short time of the onset of ventricular fibrillation (VF).

PROCEDURES: The Polson City / Rural Volunteer Fire Department anticipates that where members who are pre-sent when an incident occurs and who are trained to do so will react to incidents with the potential of "sudden death" by activating the EMS response. The Polson City and Rural Volunteer Fire Department hopes to make an AED available for these potential incidents in an attempt to intervene through the use of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED's according to the **guidelines** of the American Heart Association and/or the American Red Cross.

GUIDELINES: The Polson City / Rural Volunteer Fire Department members trained, as rescuers will use the following **guidelines** in complying with this policy. Other Polson City/ Rural Volunteer Fire Department members will call 911, follow CPR procedures, and retrieve the AED as training dictates.

PRE-PLACEMENT:**Equipment Documentation:**

- The chief or department training officer will maintain a file on the specification/technical information sheets for each approved AED model in the Polson City / Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Training:

- All Polson City / Rural Volunteer Fire Department volunteers will undergo an initial training in the use of AED's.
- AED training course shall be consistent with the American Heart Association and/or the American Red Cross and include the following content:
 - The proper use, maintenance and a periodic inspection of the AED.
 - Assessment of an unconscious person to determine if a cardiac arrest has occurred and the appropriateness of applying the AED.
 - Defibrillator safety precautions to enable the user to administer a shock without jeopardizing the safety of the victim, the user, or other persons on the scene.
 - Rapid, accurate assessment of the victim's post-shock status to determine if further activation of the AED is necessary.
 - The role of the rescuer in the coordination of care for the cardiac arrest victim on arrival of EMS personnel.
 - Scenario based practice consistent with the common scenarios that rescuers may face.
 - Routine AED maintenance, trouble shooting options, and special situations the rescuers might encounter.
- Members will only be held to the standards of the Good Samaritan Act and shall only be expected to use an AED if they have successfully completed the American Heart Association and/or the American Red Cross AED course and feel confident using the device.

Skills Review and Proficiency Demonstration:

- The members will need to demonstrate proficiency in adult CPR, and the following:
 - Safe and effective use of the AED.
 - Perform in a single or multi shock practical exam conducted by a qualified instructor.
 - Demonstrate common troubleshooting techniques used with the AED.
 - Every year all volunteer members will undergo an AED-CPR skills proficiency demonstration.
- The instructor will review this performance with each volunteer and provide remediation as appropriate.
- Following any use of the AED, the Polson Volunteer Fire Department will review the AED event data for volunteer AED-CPR skill performance and compliment and/or remediate the volunteer as appropriate.

Routine Maintenance:

- The AED will perform a self-diagnostic test every 24 hours that includes a check of battery strength and an evaluation of the internal components.
- Check to make sure unit is present with ancillary pouch and spare battery.
- Check status indicator on AED handle for “OK”
- Open case and ensure that there is **NO** red light near ON/OFF button
- Verify daily check by initializing attached calendar.
- If the battery is found to have inadequate voltage, indicated by a flashing or solid lit battery indicator on the front surface of the AED. The volunteer will replace the low battery with the spare battery.
- If the AED is in need of service, the wrench shaped indicator light will illuminate. If the service indicator light is flashing or solid remove the AED from service and notify the chief or training officer immediately to arrange for service.
- Examine the AED case, connector and battery well for foreign substances, damage or cracks.
- Examine battery pin for bending or discoloration
- Check expiration date on both battery and all electrodes, replace if expiration date is within 45 days of the monthly check.
- With the battery installed, press ON/OFF to turn on the AED and look for:
 - Self-test message
 - Momentary illumination of each LED and all LCD segments
 - BATTERY LOW OR REPLACE BATTERY SELF-TEST
 - SERVICE INDICATOR OR CALL SERVICE MESSAGE
- Check contents of the ancillary pouch for the following:
 - Razor
 - Scissors
 - Towel
 - Pocket mask