



AED Placement – Where and How Many?

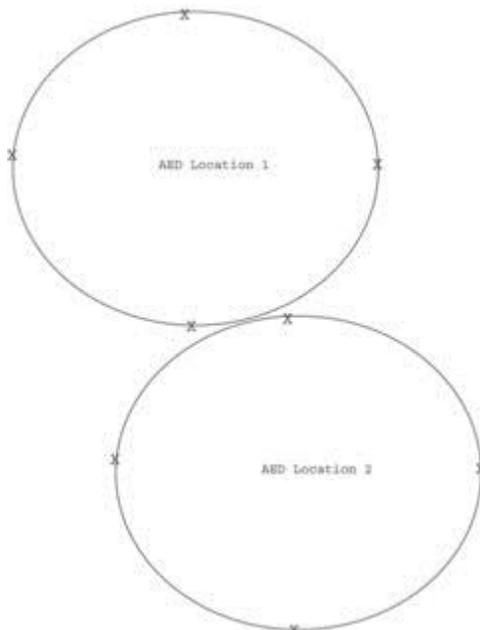
Automated external defibrillators are an investment in the safety and health of your employees and guests. For every AED deployed, there should be a program that includes first responder training, AED program management and maintenance. To maximize the strategic value from your AED investment, consider these three critical questions:

- How many AEDs do I need?
- Where should I put them?
- How do I manage the program?

The primary objective for any successful PAD (Public Access Defibrillation) program is to achieve a **3-minute response time** from collapse of a victim to arrival of the AED unit. When making any decisions about placement use this 3-minute response time, approximately 360", as a guide to determine where and how many units to place in your facility. The less time that passes between the victim dropping to the ground and the shock being delivered, the more likely the victim will survive. The goal is to get the AED to the victim's side in less than 3 minutes. This means that the AED should be stored within 1½ minutes of the victim, in case you need to go from the victim to the AED location and back. Since you don't know exactly where the victim will be, place the AED in an area that is available to the most people.

Determine Location

Identify the best locations with the fastest access to the most people using three simple tools: a floor plan, a stop watch, and a clipboard. Using the floor plan,



identify accessible areas where the AED can be mounted on a wall, in high traffic areas, and visible to as many people as possible. When determining the time it takes to get the AED to a potential victim consider delays like elevators and stairs, restricted access, and crowded production or stock areas. Take your stop watch to the proposed AED location and start timing. **Note: Time this exercise while walking at a quick pace but not a run.** Walk north for 1½ minutes, and mark the area you're standing in on the floor plan. Return to your proposed AED location and repeat

the exercise south, east and west. You should end up with four marked areas around your proposed AED location. Draw a circle through the marked areas which indicate a radius of 1½ minutes from your proposed AED location. You can see what areas are covered and what areas are left out. When the highly populated coverage areas have circles that are touching, you've done a good job protecting as many employees as possible. If the budget won't allow enough AEDs to cover all the areas, then protect as many employees as possible. Remember, once the AED reaches the victim's side, it should take less than 90 seconds to prepare the AED and deliver a shock, if indicated. The 'drop-to-shock' time is critical to successful defibrillation.

Rate of Incidence

Another important factor when determining placement is to identify locations at which the potential rate of cardiac emergencies is high or higher than normal. A company will want to determine if there are locations at the site where the incidence may be higher. There are two main considerations to keep in mind.

Volume of Employees and Visitors: Important areas that warrant an AED placed in close proximity include those with a high population density. Examples of this would include areas such as cafeterias or a call center with many cubicles.

High-Risk Activity: The other important area that warrants placement of an AED in close proximity include those with high-risk activity. A prime example is any area where there is physical activity that will raise the heart rate, such as corporate fitness centers, swimming pools or other recreational areas. Company areas with a higher level of physical labor, such as the warehouse, loading docks or an assembly lines, and locations with potential exposure to electric shock are also at a higher risk for a cardiac emergency.

Physical Placement

Once you determine how many AED units are needed, it is important to carefully consider the actual location the AED will be placed. The location must be accessible to trained and untrained rescuers if needed. The AED itself needs to be visible, secure, and accessible. The location should have a nearby phone with easy access to an outside line so that the 911 can be dialed. It should also be a location that either all staff knows about or can be advised of. Some examples may be the main reception area, cafeteria, main hallway, first aid station, fitness rooms or security post.

Program Management

Every state has laws pertaining to the use of AEDs. LifeGuard MD can help you be sure you are in compliance with those regulations. When purchasing an AED from LifeGuard MD we provide you with the documentation needed for EMS notification, policy and procedure for use, maintenance logs, incident reports, response team



worksheets and an implementation workbook. We maintain the AED records for you and notify you when items need maintenance.

Potential Problems

Vertical Response Time

Remember that response time is determined based on how long it takes to actually reach a potential emergency scene. This means that office complexes, high-rise buildings and multi-floor locations present obstacles that will affect the response time. Except in the case of a small building, it is recommended that a minimum of one AED unit be placed on each floor. It is also recommended that you calculate the response time using a route that includes stairs as opposed to an elevator.

Hard to Access Areas

Any area that is difficult to access should have its own AED unit. For security or work-flow purposes many companies will often have work areas that are sectioned off or secured from the rest of the building. Primary examples include locked areas that require a key, an access card or an access code to enter. Any area that is highly sensitive and off-limits to the majority of staff should have its own AED unit, whether it's a research facility, executive level, or a warehouse with inventory that is being safeguarded.

Other Considerations

Not all gatherings of employees take place at the actual business location. Consider all scenarios that require employee attendance, including conferences and off-site business meetings. A scenario where attendance is optional but likely is also very important, such as company special events like social gatherings, holiday parties and company barbecues. For information on AED rentals for events contact LifeGuard MD at 877-868-4141.

Survival rates decrease 7 – 10 percent every minute that defibrillation is delayed. By having AED units available at your location you will significantly improve the survival odds of your employees in the event of any cardiac emergency.

LifeGuard MD is the Master distributor for Philips AEDs in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas. Our goal is to make saving a life easy. Call for help with implementing your AED program.