

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

April 2024

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs)

AEDs are used to treat Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. A shock from an AED can greatly improve the survival rate of the victim, by potentially restarting the heart. According to the American Heart Association, 23% of SCA's are "shockable."

Each school district and county office of education must ensure that there's a written emergency action plan in place.

They also need to be compliant with Section 1797.196 of the Health and Safety Code, which requires every entity that acquires an AED to:

- Comply with all regulations governing the placement of an AED
- Notify an agent of the local EMS agency of the existence, location and type of AED acquired
- Ensure the AED is maintained and tested according to manufacturer's instructions
- Ensure the AED is tested at least biannually and after each use
- Ensure that an inspection is made of all AEDs on the premises at least every 90 days for potential issues related to operability of the device
- Ensure that records of maintenance and testing are maintained.

Additionally, the principal of a school where the AED is placed must take the following steps under Section 1797.196:

- Ensure that school administrators and staff annually receive information that describes sudden cardiac arrest, the school's emergency response plan, and the proper use of an AED
- Ensure that instructions, in no less than 14-point type, on how to use the AED are posted next to every AED
- At least annually notify school employees as to the location of all AED units on campus.

Accessibility for Wall-Mounted AEDs

AEDs are typically either stored in portable carrying cases or in enclosed wall-mounted storage boxes. The law does not specify how or where the units are to be stored, only that they be available to all athletic events. Districts can choose the method best suited for their athletic programs and specific situations, which may include some combination of the two different types.

It's important to remember, though, that while portable AED carrying cases do not have any accessibility requirements, permanently installed wall-mounted AED storage boxes must comply with the California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) building standards.



Sources

<https://emsa.ca.gov/aed/>

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/sen/sb_0251-0300/sb_287_bill_20150716_amended_asm_v96.htm



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