

GENERAL ORDER 41.9.1

Automated External Defibrillator

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 41.4.2, 81.2.1

SUMMARY

Establishes a procedure identifying when patrol officers will be assigned to cardiac arrest incidents and the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

DISCUSSION

Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart's electrical system causes the heart to quiver erratically, known as ventricular fibrillation, preventing the pumping of blood throughout the body and brain. Biological death occurs within minutes unless the normal rhythm of the heart is restored. For each minute the heart is in fibrillation about 10 percent of the ability to restart the heart is lost. It is anticipated that placement of AED devices in patrol cars may provide opportunities for police officers to deliver a defibrillating shock to victims of cardiac arrest prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services.

This procedure is a guide to supervisors, officers and dispatchers in determining the appropriate level of response and provides guidelines for sending officers to cardiac arrest situations and use of AED devices.

POLICY

I

The Springfield Police Department shall attempt to respond to all reported incidents of **cardiac arrest** within the city limits. A cardiac arrest call is a **Priority 1** call and will be dispatched as an emergency in progress pursuant to dispatch priority criteria. Our ability to have an officer on scene ahead of responding EMS units shall be the main criteria for determining our response. AED's are designed for single operator use.

EMS units typically will be dispatched simultaneously with patrol units. When circumstances clearly indicate that EMS will arrive on scene before police, it is not necessary to dispatch an officer to the call and EMS shall be advised we are not responding.

Communications officers shall determine the location of responding EMS units and relay this information to responding officers. Police vehicles shall yield to fire or medical vehicles proceeding Code 3, and police units may be called off a cardiac arrest call if it is determined that

EMS is already on scene or the call is not an actual cardiac arrest incident.

II

Automated External Defibrillators are designated for use in marked patrol units to ensure that AED's are available for immediate use throughout the city.

III

Automated External Defibrillator shall only be used in a manner specified by the manufacturer and only by personnel trained to properly operate the devices. When an AED is used to defibrillate a heart attack victim, the involved officer shall complete the AED questionnaire and forward it with the AED computer disk to the Administrative Sergeant. The Administrative Sergeant will ensure that this information and computer disk is forwarded to the Springfield Fire Department's EMS coordinator. The Administrative Sergeant will work with the Safety Committee and the CPR/AED instructor to ensure all AED units are functioning properly and are equipped with the required supplies. This inspection will occur every six months.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police