



Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program

THE GOAL

To help save the lives of those who suffer from a sudden cardiac arrest through the strategic placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in Stratford. To register those AEDs. To instruct the public in their use

GET YOUR AED REGISTERED

Contact Stratford EMS Director Mike Loiz at 203-385-4060 or at mloiz@townofstratford.com to register your AED. So dispatchers know you have one and can quickly alert bystanders to its location and use.

CONSIDER HEARTSAFE WORKPLACE DESIGNATION

Contact Stratford EMS Director Mike Loiz at 203-385-4060 or at mloiz@townofstratford.com for assistance in applying for HEARTSafe Workplace designation through the Department of Public Health

• **The Program**

Just as the name indicates, our Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program aims to see defibrillators become as widely accessible as possible – so they can be used quickly and effectively to save the life of someone whose heart has stopped beating. PAD is an initiative of Stratford EMS, the organization responsible for the management and delivery of the Town's ambulance service.

We assist organizations in obtaining an AED, registering it (so that Stratford Public Safety Dispatchers know there is one on site and can direct 911 callers on finding and using it in case of a cardiac arrest event), placing it in a location that is visible and accessible, and using it to save the life of someone in cardiac arrest.

Stratford is a HEARTSafe Community which means that we have made a concerted effort to ensure AED's are available in all town buildings, provide public CPR/AED Training and closely monitor our public safety response system looking for opportunities for enhancement.

• **Why it's Important?**

Sudden cardiac arrest – when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating – is a leading cause of death. First Responder's, EMT's and Paramedics in Stratford respond to about one hundred of 911 calls for cardiac arrest each year – many of them in public places.

Less than five percent of those who suffer a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital survive, and with each minute that passes following a cardiac episode, a person's chance of survival declines rapidly. By delivering an electric shock to the heart to try to restore its normal rhythm, an automatic external defibrillator (if used quickly), can increase a person's chance of survival by up to 75 percent when used with effective CPR.

• **Who Can Use an AED?**

Anyone! An AED is so easy to use, even untrained school children can operate one quickly and correctly. With voice and visual prompts and pictures, the AED guides bystanders through the resuscitation process. If the AED determines the person's heart needs a shock, it tells rescuers to stand back so a shock can be safely given through the adhesive electrode pads affixed to the person's chest. They have numerous built-in safeguards and are designed to deliver a shock only if the AED detects one is necessary.

That's why we want to see one in every business and public gathering place in Stratford.

• **Get Involved!**

Help us increase the survival rate for sudden cardiac arrest. Contact SEMS at 203-385-4060 and let us walk you through these simple steps:

1. **Purchase an AED**
2. **Register your AED** (So dispatchers know you have one and can quickly alert bystanders to its location and use)
3. **Place your AED** (SEMS will conduct a site visit to your facility and advise you on the best location)

SEMS can also arrange for an American Heart Association Instructor to come train your team in CPR and the use of the defibrillator. We can also help you develop an emergency response plan – so you are prepared to react quickly and with confidence in case of a medical emergency. This is necessary when applying to become a "HEARTSafe Workplace".

Together, we can save lives and do our part to create a healthier community.

Stratford EMS
Visit us @ Stratfordems.org



Town of Stratford,
Connecticut