

GENERAL ORDER XVII

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED'S)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10-24-02

REVIEW DATE: 01-13-12

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the West Plains Police Department to respond to all emergency incidents of potential sudden death when realistic and practical to do so, and to attempt to intervene through the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) according to guidelines established by the American Heart Association.

II. PURPOSE

Sudden death is a condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the human heart malfunction, causing ventricular fibrillation (VF), an erratic and ineffective rhythm. The only effective treatment is the administration of an electric shock from a defibrillator delivered within a short time of onset of (VF).

Because police officers are already mobile, they are able to respond more quickly to such incidents than Emergency Medical Personnel in most incidents. Equipping and training officers in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) increases the potential to save lives through AED intervention. This policy is intended to provide officers with uniform guidelines to follow when responded to potential incidents which may require intervention with an AED.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Training:

1. All officers shall maintain their Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification.
2. All officers will undergo an initial training course approved by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's).
3. All officers will undergo retraining in the use of AED's to maintain

certification.

4. No officer will use an AED unless the officer has successfully completed the required training.
5. All training shall be coordinated and documented by the Chief of Police or Assistant Chief of Police.

B. Event Response and Protocol

1. A marked patrol unit utilized during a shift shall be equipped with an AED unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise.
2. Officers who come upon an unconscious person will consider the incident to be a possible AED event.
3. If Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel arrive before the defibrillation protocol is complete, the officer will continue the protocol as directed by the AED until EMS personnel acknowledge that they are assuming responsibility for the further treatment of the patient.
4. Upon arrival of EMS personnel, the officer should immediately begin a dialogue briefing them on the patient's condition, what AED intervention has occurred thus far, and provide any other information they may request.
5. The actual transfer of treatment should be coordinated occurring at a mutually convenient time when both the officer and EMS personnel are prepared to make the transfer.
6. Once attached to a patient, the AED shall remain attached to the patient throughout the incident until transfer to a medical facility.

C. Do Not Resuscitate Orders

1. Absent clear and convincing proof that a "Do not Resuscitate Order" exists for a patient, officers shall initiate AED intervention.

2. "Clear and convincing proof" will be considered a signed order presented to the officer that the officer knows is that of the patient, or the verbal verification of the existence of an order provided by an individual that the officer knows is a physician.
3. Because time of the essence, nothing in this policy is meant to prevent an officer, who comes upon an AED event, from rendering aid including the use of the AED regardless of jurisdiction. As soon as time permits, an officer who renders aid in a jurisdiction other than the City of West Plains shall notify their supervisor and the law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the event occurred.

D. Reporting

1. If an AED is attached to a patient, even if no shock is delivered, a police report shall be prepared.
2. All details of the incident shall be included in the report.

E. Maintenance

1. The West Plains Police Department's AEDs constantly perform self-diagnostic checks. This check includes a check of the system's internal parts and lithium battery.
2. If an AED signals a malfunction, it shall immediately be taken out of service. If the device cannot be repaired, then the manufacturer shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If an AED is taken out of service, a replacement AED shall be utilized if at all possible.
4. AEDs shall never be stored in the trunk.
5. If a police vehicle is taken out of service for an extended period (an entire shift or longer) the AED unit shall be taken out and stored in the Chief of Police's office until such time it is to be utilized again.
6. AEDs shall always be maintained with a spare set of electrodes and a CPR mask/shield.

7. After an AED is used, the officer who has used it shall be responsible for re-equipping the unit with these accessories. Spare accessories may be obtained from South Howell County Ambulance.

F. Liability

Provided officers have complied with all training requirements outlined in this policy, they are afforded the full liability protection of the Good Samaritan Act when using the AED.

AUTHORITY

- A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

Charles Brotherton, Jr., Chief of Police