

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why should my community be a designated heart safe community?

- This designation will make the community a safer place to live, work and play by actively working to reduce the number of death and disabilities associated with Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

How long is the HEART Safe designation valid?

- The designation is valid for two years. At that time a renewal application can be submitted to continue the designation.

Will an AED always resuscitate someone in Cardiac Arrest?

- The AED will look at the electrical activity of the heart. If the electrical activity is “chaotic” and needs a “restart” the unit will charge and be ready to shock. If someone is in cardiac arrest and the AED does not indicate a shock is needed, CPR should be initiated immediately.

Is the AED safe to use?

- Absolutely! An AED is safe to use by anyone. If you can turn it on, you can use it. They are designed with multiple safeguards and warnings. However you should receive by attending a CPR class with AED instruction or a specific unit training if there is an AED at a site you frequent.

Can anyone buy an AED?

- Yes. However AEDs are manufactured and sold under guidelines approved by the FDA. Current FDA rules require a physician’s prescription to purchase most AED’s.

How much does an AED cost?

- There are a variety of brands and models available for purchase. Some are designed more specifically for medical providers and are higher prices, but many are designed to be used by the general public. Public access defibrillators can cost approximately \$1400- \$2200 depending on the model chosen. Contacting your local EMS agency can help you with the process of reviewing the various AEDs and may have resources to help financially.

What do you get for becoming a HEART Safe Community?

- In addition to a healthier community that is better able to respond quickly and effectively to cardiac emergencies and save lives, communities that attain the Heart Safe Community designation will receive public recognition. An award designating the town as a HEART Safe Community will be presented at a public

celebration. Additionally, the community will have access to public service announcements and media releases, certificates for posting in public areas and items to purchase.