Automated External Defibrillators

According to 2007 American Red Cross statistics, sudden cardiac arrest claims more than 200,000 lives in the United States annually. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the muscles of the heart beat irregularly, causing the interruption of normal blood flow patterns. Without treatment, irreversible brain damage or even death can quickly occur. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) increases the chance of survival, but the survival rate can be greatly increased when CPR is used in conjunction with early defibrillation.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are portable defibrillation devices used to assess a victim’s heart rhythm and determine whether a shock should be administered to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm. AEDs are lightweight, battery-operated, and transported easily. Many are located within community or public buildings, such as department stores or offices, for quick access.

In order to assist emergency response agencies in making purchasing decisions, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, developed the Automated External Defibrillator TechNote to provide more detailed information on this technology. The Automated External Defibrillator Product/Vendor Matrix is a product list intended to be representative of products in the marketplace. All reports in the series as well as reports on other technologies will be located on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available.

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