

## **AED Special Considerations:** (1 of 2)

**General:** To use an AED....Turn it on (by opening the lid or pressing the “on” button), then “Follow the Prompts”.

### **Environment:**

**Water** - The person laying in a small amount of water is not an issue. If the person is in a large puddle of water, especially if the water extends to the rescuer, it is best to move them to a dry surface so the rescuer does not get shocked.

**Rain / Snow** - You can use an AED in the rain, however the pads will adhere much better to a dry chest. You can use an AED if the person is laying in snow.

**Flammable gases** - If you smell gas or other combustible gases, move the person to a different environment as the AED could spark and ignite the gases.

### **Person:**

**Bare chest** - A bare chest can allow you clues as to what might have happened. Scars from a pacemaker or heart surgery could be a clue. A bare chest will show medicine patches which can also be a clue as to what is going on. This is one of the reasons we remove the shirt.

**Shirt** - If the shirt needs to be cut off, start from the neck down as the shoulders will provide some tension and keep the shirt from bunching up which makes it harder to cut. If you start cutting from the bottom, the shirt will bunch up and cutting will become difficult.

**Damp chest** - Dry the chest off as much as possible. Electricity takes the path of least resistance so it will travel through the water on the chest rather than through the heart muscle. Also, the pads will adhere better to dry skin.

**Medicine patches** - With a gloved hand, remove any medicine patches from the person’s chest.

**Implanted Defibrillators and Pacemakers** - If possible, avoid putting the AED pad over the implanted device.

**Jewelry** - Move any jewelry out of the way that might interfere with the AED pads.

**CONTINUED**

## **AED Special Considerations: (2 of 2)**

**Chest Hair** - Heavy chest hair can interfere with the connectivity of the AED pads. It is best to shave hair if a razor is available. If no razor is available you can apply an extra set of AED pads then quickly remove the pads to rip off the hair. The patient is unconscious and won't feel this. Do this only if there is a second set of AED pads. In either case do not waste too much time on this as getting the AED hooked up to the patient quickly is the ultimate goal.

**Bras** - Bras can interfere with pad placement, especially wide strap bras. Underwires can interfere with the AED current. It's best to remove the bra (cut if necessary) or un-do a front clasp. This also allows for "bare chest" considerations mentioned above. At minimum, move the shoulder strap out of the way down the arm. Once the AED pads are attached, cover the chest for privacy reasons.

**Pads** - The entire pad must adhere to the skin. If for some reason the pad won't adhere, remove the pad (there could be a glue issue with the pad) only if there is a second set of pads. Dry/clean off the chest area as much as possible and try the second set of pads.

**Leave Pads Attached** - If the person does revive, do not remove the pads, there is an 80% chance Cardiac Arrest can re-occur.

### **Rescuers & Bystanders:**

**Stay Clear!** - Rescuers and Bystanders must stay clear of the Patient when it is analyzing or shocking (do not touch the patient during these times).

### **Semi-Automatic vs Automatic AED:**

**Semi-Automatic** - This type of AED will prompt you to push the "shock" button to deliver the shock. This type is most common.

**Automatic** - This type of AED will analyze and deliver the "shock" without the aid of someone pushing the "shock" button.

### **Survival Information:**

**Time** - If a Sudden Cardiac Arrest victim receives CPR & defibrillation within the first minute, the survival rate is 90%! The survival rate decreases 7% to 10% for each minute that passes without defibrillation. Note: 30% - 50% of sudden cardiac arrest victims would survive if AED's were used within the first 5 minutes.