

## New! Public Access Defibrillation Program

Thirty-nine new Phillips Heartstart FRx Defibrillators were recently purchased and installed throughout Marquam Hill, West Campus and off-site OHSU locations. These areas did not formerly have AEDs or hospital Code Team coverage.

As you may know, the [Oregon State Legislature recently passed a law](#) effective January 1, 2010, requiring public access AEDs in every facility used as a place of public assembly (greater than 50,000 sq ft) and where business activities are conducted. The OHSU Safety Committee and the OHSU Executive Leadership Team partnered in the effort to provide public access AEDs to areas of OHSU that previously did not have immediate access to them. Public access defibrillators are designed to be used by anyone so that a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest has the best chance of surviving.



### What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time -- without warning, often without symptoms, and regardless of age or general health. The American Heart Association estimates that each year SCA claims the lives of approximately 340,000 people in the U.S. alone. Unlike heart attack, which is caused when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked, sudden cardiac arrest is primarily caused by ventricular fibrillation. This is a life-threatening condition in which the heart's normal electrical signals become erratic so the heart stops pumping blood effectively. The victim immediately becomes unresponsive, stops breathing, and has no detectable pulse. Defibrillation, or restoring the heart's natural rhythm by applying an electrical shock, is the *only* treatment for ventricular fibrillation.

Surviving SCA is largely dependent on how quickly you are defibrillated. For each minute that defibrillation is delayed, your chance of survival decreases by 7 to 10 percent. After 10 minutes, few victims of SCA survive. Early defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) greatly increase your chances for survival.

### What should I do if I suspect someone is having Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

If a person is unresponsive, call for help immediately by dialing 503-494-4444 (Marquam Hill and CHH) or 911 (West campus and other off-campus locations). The Heartstart FRx AED is designed to assist the user in delivering CPR through verbal instructions. Instructions for use of the AED are also located inside the carrying case. With the pads in place, the AED will automatically analyze the heart rhythm and if defibrillation is necessary, it will actively guide the user. The Heartstart FRx will not deliver a shock if it is not needed.

### Who is trained in AED use on Marquam Hill Campus?

Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers have been trained in CPR and defibrillation. DPS will likely be the first emergency responder on the Marquam Hill Campus. When CPR and AEDs are used together, a better outcome can be obtained.

To learn more about how the Heartstart FRx AED functions, to see the training video and find a wealth of OHSU Public AED information, go to: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/ehrs/safety/gen/emergency.cfm>

### Who maintains the AEDs and who should I call if I have a question or need?

Environmental Health and Radiation Safety administers the AED program. Please call 503-494-7795 if you have any questions or if you need to report an event.