

What is an AED?

Automated External Defibrillators (AED's)

The original defibrillators used in treatment of cardiac arrest required extensive medical training to interpret the cardiac rhythm and to select the appropriate strength of the defibrillation. Fortunately, new technology has automated many of the functions. These automated external defibrillators, or AED's, does the analyzing and defibrillation determinations. They are very easy to use and require only pushing one to three buttons, depending on the machine. All the user has to do is place the pads in the correct position as shown in pictures printed on the pads. They then push a button and the machine does the work and talks the person through the process. They are now having great success by a wide range of people and by the general public.

Wakulla EMS grants have furnished AED's in many public places and on first responder vehicles and the Sheriff's Department vehicles.

There are several companies in the United States that manufacture AED's. Be sure that any AED you might purchase is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Additional information:

- American Heart Association