



SURF LIFE SAVING SA

PO Box 108, Torrensville SA 5031
219 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville SA 5031

Phone: 08 8354 6900

Facsimile: 08 8354 6999

Web Site: www.surfrescue.com.au

BULLETIN

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To: Club Lifesaving Advisors, Chief Instructors, BOLS

From: Shane Daw Joy Fisher
State Manager Academy Manager

Date: 27th August 2009

**SUBJECT: Public Access Defibrillation into Bronze Medallion
Proficiency Updates for Bronze Medallion Award Holders**

Terminology:

- PAD: Public Access Defibrillator, refers to defibrillator units placed in positions of public access i.e. shopping centres, airports. Public Access Defibrillators are generally housed in casings (as shown in the picture) with details on use as described in a flow chart placed beside the storage case. Surf Life Saving Clubs considering having defibrillator units set up as PADs should contact SLSSA for further information on requirements to meet all obligations.
- AED: Automatic External Defibrillator, refers to the defibrillator unit itself.



Introduction of Public Access Defibrillation

The frequency of defibrillator use has increased since the introduction of defibrillation into Surf Life Saving. Technology has advanced and the models of defibrillators that are used have become simpler and even more user friendly.

The significantly positive impact of early defibrillation on survival odds is now well known and has resulted in the increase to public access defibrillators (PAD).

- Overall, it is believed that PADs can be such an invaluable aid in the management of cardiac arrest that they should be made readily accessible to those with appropriate training and, in some cases, even those with no training.
- In some communities PADs have been put in public places such as airports, stations and large shopping centres. They are also carried on some airlines on long distance flights and have been used successfully in this setting.
- A patient in cardiac arrest needs to be defibrillated within minutes and there is the potential for many lives to be saved by ready access to PADs by trained users.

PADs are not currently standard in SLS facilities even though most clubs and services now have at least one automatic external defibrillator (AED) for patrolling purposes.

In light of the beach and clubrooms being a location where a number of cardiac incidents occur both during and outside of service hours, it was determined that SLSA should review the organisation's position on PADs and revise the policy to allow the use of such equipment for SLS facilities and services.

The National Board of Lifesaving has resolved that all patrols should have access to an AED for the coming season.



Outcomes

The Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) guideline 10.1.3 states that defibrillation should “***preferably be undertaken by trained lay people or health professionals. As trained personnel may not be available immediately, untrained bystanders should also have access to the use of public access defibrillators.***”

Therefore, for SLS services:

- If a qualified member is not present or preoccupied carrying out other duties, an alternative member may use an AED as per the device’s operating instructions.
- An untrained member or bystander may obtain access to and use a surf lifesaving club AED where no qualified members are present.

Clubs and members should note that:

- Public Access Defibrillation provides an understanding and awareness of the use of Defibrillators in the event of an emergency, and does not give the candidate a defibrillator qualification/award.
- Persons using Defibrillators as part of their workplace (surf lifesavers) should undertake training which incorporates skills and knowledge that meet industry and workplace standards, and complete the Defibrillator Certificate (PUAOPE010B Operate a semi automatic defibrillator in an emergency).

Public Access Defibrillation awareness into the Bronze Medallion for new candidates

(Note: Public Access Defibrillation is not required to be covered in the Surf Rescue Certificate)

Defibrillation awareness and familiarisation is now included in the Surf Life Saving Bronze Medallion / Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue).

- **Rationale**

The development of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) has come a long way over the last 10 years and has made community-based use of such units feasible. As noted, the Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines recommend broader community education and awareness of the use of defibrillation within CPR and First Aid courses. (Note: this is education and awareness for Public Access use.)

The guidelines also recommend that in the absence of trained lay people or health professionals, untrained bystanders should have access to the use of public access defibrillators. These guidelines reflect a broader approach to the use of defibrillation than has been previously recommended.

- **Scope of training**

The scope of training for defibrillation (in the new 33rd Manual) differs from the defibrillator course. The scope of the Bronze Medallion/Certificate II awareness and familiarisation is contained within Chapter 5 of the new 33rd manual.

It is important that training officers and assessors do not over-train or over-assess candidates in this section of the award.

The awareness and familiarisation should simply give candidates the knowledge to be able to prepare the patient, attach pads to the patient and follow prompts of the AED while following safety procedures, **should no qualified persons be available.**

Note: Technical requirements such as detailed terminology, anatomy and physiology are not required to be learnt as part of this awareness and familiarisation.

- **Who can conduct Public Access Defibrillation awareness programs within the Bronze/Certificate II?**

A Bronze Medallion Training Officer, who is the holder of a current award in Defibrillation (PUAOPE010B Operate a semi automatic defibrillator in an emergency), and has attended the 2009/2010 SLSSA update program for Bronze Medallion Trainers and Assessors, can conduct the Public Access Defibrillation awareness and familiarisation section of the Bronze Medallion within their Club.



For the assessment component for new Bronze Medallion squads, there is no formal practical assessment of the use of the Defibrillator; however, a scenario activity will be required in which the use of the Defibrillator will be incorporated from a 'Public Access' perspective.

Only Bronze Medallion Assessors who hold a current Defibrillation Certificate and have attended the 2009/2010 SLSSA update program for Bronze Medallion Trainers and Assessors, will be endorsed to undertake Bronze Medallion Assessments.

Public Access Defibrillation awareness for current Bronze Medallion award holders - Proficiency requirement

- **Do we need to upgrade existing Bronze/Certificate II holders?**

Yes. Public Access Defibrillator awareness will be included in the 2009/10 proficiency test for existing and returning Bronze Medallion award holders in South Australia.

This awareness and introduction to Public Access Defibrillator use will take the form of a short workshop and demonstration in the application of pads/safety awareness during a resuscitation scenario.

Bronze Medallion proficiencies can only be carried out by Bronze Assessors who hold a current Defibrillation Certificate and who have attended the 2009/2010 SLSSA update program for Bronze Medallion Trainers and Assessors.

Defibrillator Certificate

- **Do we still send candidates to the defibrillator award course?**

Yes. As noted earlier, the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) guideline 10.1.3 states that defibrillation should "***preferably be undertaken by trained lay people or health professionals.***"

We have also had advice in relation to Defibrillator use, that where industries/work places use defibrillators as part of their operations / functions, it would be expected/required that people would hold the necessary industry competencies available for the use of that equipment.

Surf lifesavers through the provision of patrol and emergency service delivery are deemed to be operating in the work place, therefore there is an expectation that members are suitably qualified, and members are strongly encouraged to complete the Defibrillator Certificate (PUAOPE010B Operate a semi automatic defibrillator in an emergency).

To book into a Defibrillator Course (PUAOPE010B Operate a semi automatic defibrillator in an emergency) go to the SLSSA web site www.surfrescue.com.au or contact SLSSA on 8354 6900.

Further information

For further information about the awareness and familiarisation programs for Public Access Defibrillation as part of the Bronze Medallion contact the Academy staff at SLSSA on 8354 6900.