





SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS POLICY	305
Effective:	April 2025
Approval: EMS Director Travis Kusman, MPH	Signed: 
Approval: EMS Medical Director Greg Gilbert, MD	Signed: 

PUBLIC SAFETY AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBILLATION PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

This policy identifies the process for public safety agencies to implement and utilize automatic external defibrillation devices. Defibrillation, the skill of utilizing an automatic external defibrillator established by the San Mateo County EMS Agency is included in the California EMT basic scope of practice and has been approved as an optional skill for use by personnel trained to public safety first responder standards.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code (“H&SC”) Section 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798 and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2.3

III. DEFINITIONS

Automatic External Defibrillator (“AED”): An automated external defibrillator device used by a trained person.

Emergency Medical Services Agency (“LEMSA”) [or “Agency”]: The San Mateo County EMS Agency is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and is statutorily charged with primary responsibility for administration and medical control of emergency medical services in San Mateo County.

IV. PUBLIC SAFETY AED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Any public safety agency employing lifeguards, firefighters, and/ or peace officers trained in first aid and using an AED must be approved by the LEMSA as a public safety AED service provider. Public Safety AED service provider approval may be revoked or suspended for failure to maintain the requirements of this policy.

A. Request for Approval

1. Public safety agencies requesting approval as a public safety AED service provider must submit:
 - a. A written request for approval as a public safety AED service provider, including contact information for the AED coordinator.
 - b. A Public Safety AED Service Provider application available from LEMSA.
 - c. A copy of the public safety agency’s policies for:

- i. Initial AED orientation and training, including training materials, written exams, and skills exams;
 - ii. Continued AED competency, including any training materials, written exams, skills exams, or course completions;
 - iii. Authorizing AED personnel;
 - iv. Maintaining a roster of AED personnel available to LEMSA and the California EMS Authority;
 - v. Maintaining AED equipment;
 - vi. Collecting AED data; and
 - vii. AED data maintenance and its submission upon request from LEMSA.
- d. Reportable data elements are be comprised of the following:
- i. Total number of patients defibrillated;
 - ii. Number of witnessed arrest patients;
 - iii. Number of un-witnessed arrest patients;
 - iv. Number of patients receiving CPR prior to the arrival of EMS;
 - v. Number of patients whose initial monitored rhythm was V-tach or V-fib, if available; and
 - vi. Number of patients defibrillated who were discharged from the hospital alive, if available.

B. Standing Order for Medical Control

If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, authorized AED personnel employed by an approved public safety AED service provider are to use the AED as trained.

C. To receive and maintain Public Safety AED Service Provider approval, the public safety service provider shall comply with the requirements of this policy and/ or applicable state regulations.

D. Public Safety AED Service Provider approval may be revoked or suspended for failure to maintain the requirements of this policy and/ or applicable state regulations.

V. PUBLIC SAFETY AED SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. A Public Safety Agency wishing to implement an AED training program must be approved by the LEMSA. This program shall include:

- 1. A minimum of four (4) hours of initial instruction and skills competency verification;
- 2. A course outline which includes the topics and skills listed in the current public safety regulations, for the optional skill of AED; and
- 3. A final written and practical evaluation.

- B. The public safety agency shall implement a quality improvement (QI) program as outlined in the EMS QI plan (EQIP) established by the LEMSA.
- C. The Public Safety Agency shall follow the medical control policies and procedures issued by the LEMSA Medical Director.
- D. Defibrillators and defibrillator trainers shall be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

VI. PUBLIC SAFETY AED INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

To be authorized to instruct public safety personnel in the use of an AED, an AED instructor shall complete an American Heart Association recognized instructor course (or equivalent), including instruction and training in the use of an AED.