

Porcelain Press

Issue 40, February, 2004



AED Program

Through an initiative of the Voluntary Protection Program Steering Committee, PNNL is putting into place an important addition to our first aid response capabilities: an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program.

The AED is a small portable device that analyzes the heart rhythm

of a person who may have sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) caused by an electrical malfunction that makes the heart "quiver" ineffectively. This condition is called Ventricular Fibrillation (VF) and is extremely serious. (3G045) If the AED is used on a VF victim within three minutes of cardiac arrest, their chance of walking out of the hospital increases from less than 10 to more than 60 or 70 percent.

Although responders' use of the AED does not replace the care provided by emergency medical services (EMS), it provides a lifesaving bridge during the first few minutes it takes for advanced life support personnel to arrive.

Modern AEDs are designed to be very safe and easy to use. The units deployed by PNNL require only that the unit be opened and simple graphic and audible instructions be followed for the unit to be successfully used. The unit will not deliver a shock unless it has been applied properly to a victim, the person is confirmed to be in VF, and in need of a shock.

Although the device is simple to use, our volunteer first aid providers are encouraged to complete AED training to provide the best response possible. This does not preclude anyone else from using the AED as allowed under the Good Samaritan laws.

If you are interested in AED training, please contact your [training coordinator](#) for further information. AEDs are placed in several PNNL buildings (typically lobbies and/or adjacent to first aid kits ([AED locations](#) may be found at the [MIT](#) or [VPP](#) site) and are designed by the manufacturer to be as simple as possible to use.

PREVENT Accidents

The VPP Steering Committee challenges each PNNL employee to help us take health and safety performance to the next level by reporting precursor conditions of injuries or illness before they become recordable injury events. We know that each PNNL employee hopes to go home uninjured from each day's work. Help us identify and correct potentially harmful situations at PNNL and PREVENT accidents!

Our intention is to create an open, constructive environment to report situations that are or could be harmful. We encourage you to report safety concerns or ideas for improving safety at PNNL to your immediate manager or any member of the [VPP Steering Committee](#).

In the course of reporting these conditions, event investigations are often necessary. We want you to realize that these investigations are NOT intended to be punitive in nature! Rather, the purpose of the investigation is to identify and correct factors that may cause people to get hurt.

The critique is one of our tools to identify these factors of more serious events. It is intended to be an open and constructive examination of events, situations and occurrences. The critique consists of a brief summary of the event or issue, a chronology of relevant facts, causal analysis, corrective actions, and lessons learned. It typically lasts 1–1.5 hours and is not aimed at identifying blame. Routine participants in a critique may include: responsible line manager, involved staff, facilitator, recorder, legal, DOE, Building Manager, subject matter experts such as the Safety & Health Representative, Union Stewards, Event Classifier, and PAAA. The involvement of support staff reduces potential impact of bias from those directly involved with the event. (37092)

Less serious events such as minor injuries or near misses still require investigation and may result in a critique if the situation is complex or had the potential for more serious consequences. In other situations, the investigation may be less formal and involve fewer participants. In any case, the objective is the same: determine how we can avoid future incidents or situations that could harm our staff, the environment, or others.

We all want to go home safe and only YOU can make it happen. We all need to watch out for our own safety and the safety of our co-workers. Working together, we can take safety to the next level and PREVENT accidents before they happen!

See the VPP site
for new
blood pressure
monitor locations

The Porcelain Press is sponsored by the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Steering Committee. (3J857)

Comments on this issue should be addressed to the editor, 373-9238.

If your payroll number is listed in this issue, you've just won a VPP Prize! Contact Julie Fisher <julie.fisher@pnl.gov> to redeem your prize!

♻️ This newsletter was printed on recycled paper