

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in this country, claiming the lives of nearly 1,000 people every day, or about 335,000 every year. It affects men, women and children of all fitness levels without warning. SCA survival rates drop 7 to 10 percent every minute without defibrillation, and brain damage begins in just 4 to 5 minutes. Ninety-five percent of those who suffer SCA die because cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation usually occur too late. Immediate CPR and defibrillation are the most effective treatments. The American Heart Association estimates that the survival rate after cardiac arrest would increase by 20 percent and that 40,000 more lives would be saved each year with more consistent application of effective bystander CPR and early use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

The Chain of Survival

The American Heart Association (AHA) has defined a Chain of Survival that is now the worldwide standard for emergency cardiac care:



- Early access to emergency medical services (EMS and 911)
- Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Immediate defibrillation when indicated
- Early emergency treatment



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

An AED is an electronic device that analyzes heart rhythm and is designated to deliver a defibrillation shock if it detects that one is required. The AED is portable and easy to use. Anyone who has successfully completed a nationally recognized CPR/AED course can use an AED.

LifePak AEDs are prescription devices intended for use on adults and children over the age of one. Although not everyone can be saved from SCA, studies show that early defibrillation can dramatically improve survival rates.



Liability Protection

Good Samaritan laws, which give some immunity to lay people who help others in distress, have been passed in all 50 U.S. states:

Florida Statute 768.13 states: "Any person, including those licensed to practice medicine, who gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency care of treatment in direct response to emergency situations...without objection of the injured victim or victims thereof, shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such care or treatment ..." There is also support of Public Access to Defibrillation Demonstration (PADD) Programs at the federal level. The Cardiac Arrest Survival Act (CASA) of 2000 encourages placement of AEDs in federal buildings and ensures federal liability protection for those who acquire or use an AED to help save a life.



Miami-Dade Heartwatch: Your Community in Action

Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Medtronic Emergency Response Systems, the American Heart Association, and Baptist Health South Florida are leading the way by establishing PADD Programs in public and private gathering places throughout the community. This partnership would not be complete without the participation of Miami-Dade residents. Residents are a vital link between the onset of a cardiac emergency and arrival of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue responders.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue operates a local PADD Program, funded by the United States Department of Health. It is designed to place AEDs in public places and train the community in CPR/AED procedures allowing them to be first responders, if needed. This program increases the chances of surviving a SCA by decreasing the time for initiation of emergency treatment.



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Help Save a Life!

**With Four Easy Steps,
You Can Become An Active
Part of the
Miami-Dade
Heartwatch Program:**

How Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Can Help

**Contact us to receive information
on how you can bring PADD to your
neighborhood or place of business.**

We will:

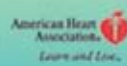
- meet with you to discuss your needs and our programs;
- assess your site;
- train and certify site occupants and/or staff in CPR and AED;
- place AEDs (upon availability).

PADD Coordinator
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
mdfrgrants@miamidade.gov
TEL 786.331.4470
FAX 786.331.4471

www.miamidade.gov/mdfr/heartwatch



Medtronic



Baptist Health
South Florida

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Save a Life



**Join the Public Access to
Defibrillator Demonstration
Program (PADD)**



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