

PRESS RELEASE
SYKE\$VILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Sykesville Police Equip Vehicles with Automated External Defibrillators

Sykesville has taken the initiative to combat a very serious health problem in our community, sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest accounts for an estimated 460,000 deaths each year in the U.S. alone. More deaths are claimed from sudden cardiac arrest than breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer and AIDS combined.

The most tragic thing about sudden cardiac arrest is the fact that despite the finest cardiologists, hospitals, emergency rooms and pre-hospital care, the survival rate is less than 5 percent nationally. Early defibrillation can save lives that may have been lost due to sudden cardiac arrest.

When someone collapses from sudden cardiac arrest, the person must receive rapid defibrillation within minutes or they will die. The most common means of treating cardiac death – a sudden, abrupt loss of heart function – is the use of an “Automated External Defibrillator” or “AED”. AEDs are about the size of a portable laptop computer and provide brief, but powerful electrical stimulation to a person’s chest, helping to restore the heart’s natural rhythm. The user simply places the AED pads on the victim’s chest and lets the instrument do the rest. Medical researches estimate that up to 50 percent of all sudden cardiac arrest deaths could be prevented with early defibrillation.

Placing AEDs in our police vehicles is part of our strategy to save more lives and make our community a safer, healthier place to live, work and play.