

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001

July 20, 2000

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers
Directors, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

FROM: AM/Chief Health and Medical Officer

SUBJECT: Guidance for Implementing an Automatic External
Defibrillator (AED) Program

Recently, the Occupational Health Principal Center conducted an Agency wide survey that disclosed the number, location, and type of AED's. Since most cardiac arrests occur outside the hospital setting, the quick response of emergency medical service personnel can have a significant impact on survival rates. Correct use of AED's by lay rescuers can significantly improve the outcome of cardiac arrest.

The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer supports Occupational Health in encouraging the use of AED's in conjunction with prompt cardiovascular resuscitation and rapid transfer to community emergency medical services for victims of sudden cardiac death. Official guidelines for use of AED's will become a chapter in the future Occupational Health Handbook, currently under development. This memorandum will serve as interim guidance for Centers during the development of that Handbook.

If you have any questions, please call Dr. William Barry, Agency Occupational Health Program Manager at (321) 867-6341.

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Enclosure