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Early Debrillation

National Association of EMS Physicians® believes that:

1. Early defibrillation, as part of an emergency response including high-quality bystander CPR, is essential to maximizing survival from cardiac arrest.
2. While there has been increasing attention to the importance of the quality of CPR, early defibrillation is still important. If the arrest is not witnessed and a defibrillator is not immediately available, defibrillation should be preceded by good quality chest compressions.
3. All EMS responders (including police, fire/rescue, and other types of rescuers when serving in a designated first responder role) should be equipped with a defibrillator.
4. Public access defibrillation programs in which nontraditional first responders provide CPR and defibrillation in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest appear to improve survival. Such programs should be integrated with local EMS systems.
5. Good Samaritan laws or similar legislation should hold harmless any person who uses an AED in good faith.