

Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Association launches Wyoming First Responder AED Project

The Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, has contracted with the Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Association (WYEMSA) to implement the Wyoming First Responder AED Project.

The project, funded through a nearly \$4.2 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, is intended to deliver LifePak® CR2 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and training to law enforcement, Game and Fish, and, state and national parks personnel.

Annually, about 475,000 Americans die from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). Research has shown that the sooner an AED is available to a patient in sudden cardiac arrest, the better the chance of survival. The Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services partnered with the Helmsley Charitable Trust to improve the “chain of survival” for cardiac arrest victims in Wyoming through a multi-faceted approach. The primary focus will be to equip state, county, municipal, and tribal law enforcement agencies with enough AEDs to ensure their patrol vehicles have an AED available for cardiac arrest.

The LifePak® CR2 AEDs, manufactured by Physio Control, a part of Stryker, takes advantage of the latest breakthroughs in defibrillation technology, including Wi-Fi access to conduct self-checks, event reporting, and tracking of devices to ensure readiness of each device. WYEMSA will engage Stryker and expert trainers throughout the state to train recipients in the use and setup of the devices, as well as CPR.

Concurrently, WYEMSA will work with the Office of Emergency Medical Services to increase bystander CPR through efforts to increase telephone-CPR guidance from 911 dispatch centers and supporting the creation of community-based CPR programs. Evaluation efforts will provide real-time feedback in the training and dissemination aspects of the project, and the impact this project has on AED use among first responders and ultimately cardiac arrest survival.