



Chief of Police Ed Barberini  
Fire Chief Dave Downing

CITY OF SAN BRUNO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **San Bruno Police Now Better Equipped For Cardiac Related Emergencies In The Field**

The City of San Bruno is pleased to announce that each of the San Bruno Police Department patrol vehicles is now equipped with a portable Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Approximately 325,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest every year and up to 25% of these deaths could have been prevented if an AED were available. An automated AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular heart rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest is an abrupt loss of heart function. If this condition is not treated within minutes, it will be fatal. A built-in computer checks a victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes. The computer calculates whether defibrillation is needed. It gives the heart the chance to resume beating effectively. The heart must be "defibrillated" quickly because a victim's chance of surviving drops by 7 to 10 percent for every minute a normal heartbeat is not restored. Even when 911 is called immediately, it can take approximately 4 to 6 minutes for emergency medical personnel to respond. San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini points out, "It is difficult to predict what type of first responder will be the first to arrive at any particular scene. This availability of AED's enhances the ability of our personnel to take immediate action during a medical emergency." After 10 minutes without emergency care, resuscitation is rarely successful.

The San Bruno Fire Department AED Program Coordinator utilized donated funds to purchase defibrillators for all city buildings and police patrol vehicles. Police Officers are now equipped with lifesaving equipment that can be utilized instantly in the field if they encounter a cardiac emergency. These extra minutes of action with AED's make it possible for more people to respond to a medical emergency where defibrillation is required, thus increasing the chances for survival. AED's are now part of an emergency response program that also include rapid use of 9-1-1 and prompt delivery of CPR. "The Fire Department is proud to work cooperatively with law enforcement to provide the highest level of service to the community of San Bruno." said San Bruno Fire Chief Dave Downing.

