



American  
Heart  
Association.

# Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Checklist

The American Heart Association (AHA) wants all people to learn First Aid, CPR and AED to create a generation of people that are prepared to act in an emergency, putting more qualified lifesavers in our communities and creating a Nation of Heartsavers™.

About 9 in 10 cardiac arrest victims who receive a shock from an AED in the first minute live. During cardiac arrest, CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival.

All organizations, schools, workplaces, and sports facilities should establish a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP). The following checklist contains the minimum steps to include in your plan:

- Establish a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) and Team.
- Share** the CERP at your site. Ensure the plan is integrated with local emergency medical services, fire and police (if applicable). Post the CERP in key locations throughout the site.
- Implement Automated External Defibrillator (AED) placement and a routine maintenance schedule within the organization, school, workplace, or athletic facility (similar to fire-extinguisher protocols).
- Schedule and maintain ongoing staff training and certification in First Aid, CPR, and AED use. Educate as many people as possible in Hands-Only CPR (which can be used for teens and adults). If feasible, include information on rescue breathing and/or conventional CPR.
- Practice** the CERP plan using routine drills (similar to fire and lock-down drills)
- Activate** the CERP Team in response to a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) event
- Evaluate and update** the plan on a consistent annual basis. If a SCA event occurs, debrief immediately post-event to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Download the detailed AHA CERP implementation plan, protocol and resources at [heart.org/CERP](https://heart.org/CERP).



**Share**



**Practice**



**Activate**