



# Amherst Fire District Procedure

## Defibrillation - Manual

### Clinical Indications:

- Cardiac arrest with ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia
- Unstable polymorphic ventricular tachycardia

### Procedure:

1. Clinically confirm the diagnosis of cardiac arrest and identify the need for defibrillation.
2. Apply pads to the patient's chest in the proper position and in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation (commonly seen as picture on pads).
3. Assure proper contact by shaving, drying, or making sure fast patch pads have good solid skin contact.
4. Select the appropriate energy level (adult – 200 joules with repeat doses at 200 joules; pediatric patients 2 joules/kg initially with repeat therapies at 4 joules/kg) for biphasic devices.
5. Charge the defibrillator to the selected energy level.
6. **Assertively state, "CLEAR" and visualize that no one, including you, is in contact with the patient.**
7. Depress the **shock button** for hands free operation.
8. Immediately continue CPR for two minutes.
9. Document all dysrhythmias and the response to defibrillation with ECG strips with the PCR.
10. Repeat the procedure as indicated by patient response and ECG rhythm.

### Certification Requirements:

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure.