Heart Safe Designation

100 Communities in Minnesota by National CPR/AED Week

The Heart Safe Designation process started in 2010 at Allina Health as a way to work with communities in their response area and help them to be better prepared for cardiac emergencies. The model was used from the U.S. and International sites. In 2012, the designation process moved to the American Heart Association and the Minnesota Department of Health and a committee of statewide programs. Currently, the committee meets quarterly and MDH hosts the application and other documents on their website. To date, there are over 50 communities that have received designation or are in progress.

Something new for 2015 is the addition of a Heart Safe Campus/Site application. This can be used for school districts or campus’s, business sites or regional organizations such as the YMCA or parks. The application is similar but is based on daily occupancy and the requirements are adjusted for smaller sites. A plaque is being developed to replace the street signs. Organizations within cities that are Heart Safe can apply; just as an organization that becomes Heart Safe can then work to get their city Heart Safe Designated. This is just another tool to help communities work toward improving response to cardiac emergencies.

This process works! There have been several saves in Heart Safe Designated Communities. Check out the Heart Safe page at Minnesota Department of Heart to read more about some amazing saves.

This year, the committee has set a goal to have 100 communities or sites in Minnesota designated as Heart Safe or in process. There is a celebration planned for June 4th. The committee will be sending invites to your community soon. We hope you will join us to celebrate as we reach this success in Minnesota!

What can you do??? Share the information with your neighboring communities. Let them know how easy it was and give them suggestions on how they can get their community recognized.
In August 2014, a new state law went into effect requiring all publicly placed AEDs to be registered with a maintenance program. The AED Registration Law (403.51) has a goal of helping AED owners maintain their AEDs so that they are ready to be used if needed. The Minnesota AED Registry is a free tool that fulfills the requirements of the new law by sending an email reminder to an AED owner when their AED’s battery or electrodes are ready to expire. The Minnesota AED registry can also link the locations of AEDs to the local 911 dispatch center so that AEDs can be quickly located when needed.

In July 2014, the Minnesota AED registry contained 1,373 AEDs. By January 2015, the registry has grown to 2,878 AEDs and now in just three months, the registry contains 3,314 AEDs. This is amazing growth but we know there are still more AEDs out there. The message about this new law has been spread mostly by word of mouth; although the league of Minnesota Cities did put an article about it in their newsletter. So, as a Heart Safe Community we ask you to continue to spread the word to places of worship, schools, recreational centers, governmental buildings, and businesses. These are all included in this law. So when you are out and about in your community, please inform AED owners of the law.

If you have questions about the Minnesota AED Registry, would like marketing materials or would like assistance in putting a plan together for your community; please check out the MRC bystander tools page at http://mrc.umn.edu/Bystandertools/index.htm