



**WARREN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
Kevin T. Harrison, Sheriff



104 West Main Street, Suite A
Warrenton, Missouri 63383
Telephone: (636) 456-4332
Fax: (636) 456-1811
kharrison@warrencountymo.org
www.wesdmo.net

PRESS RELEASE

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L-R: Deputy Randy Deatherage, Deputy Michael Hernandez, Nurse Lesa Hobusch, Deputy Jim Green, Deputy Tommy Tomlin, and Deputy Eric Schleuter

Warren County Sheriff Kevin Harrison reports the deployment of life-saving AED equipment on patrol. Beginning March 1, 2012 every on-duty WCSD patrol car will carry an AED unit. AED's are electronic devices designed to evaluate the rhythm of the heart after a cardiac arrest and deliver a shock if needed. Nearly a quarter of a million Americans die each year because of sudden cardiac arrest. In many cases, cardiac deaths can be prevented if an AED is available and used properly by first responders. AEDs are recognized as being critical to cardiac survival. Access to an AED provides a link between the beginning of an emergency and the time when medical professionals arrive on scene. In cases of cardiac arrest where AEDs are available, survival rates are close to 75 percent. When an AED is not available, similar emergencies have survival rates of only 5 percent.

Harrison stated it would have taken significant funding to assign a unit to every Sheriff's Department vehicle. Instead five units were purchased at \$1,500.00 each to be issued to each deputy at the beginning of their shift. We utilize the same logic for our other equipment such as cameras, computers, and radars. I don't have the budget nor can I justify assigning each of these pieces of equipment for every vehicle, but it is both economical and efficient to purchase and maintain enough to equip every vehicle on duty during a typical shift. Deputies simply hand-off equipment at the end of their shift to the oncoming deputies. Our AED program started as a community fundraising project of our Ladies Auxiliary. They purchased and donated our first unit last December. The remaining four were purchased earlier this year. Throughout February of 2012 all WCSD personnel received updated CPR and AED training by our staff nurse.