

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Primary Responders:

AU Safety Services: on campus 5555 or 911
 off campus (419) 207-5555

Ashland City Police/Fire: 911 (involvement determined by primary AU responders)

The guidelines below are very brief and general steps the layperson can take to assist persons with medical emergencies. Persons trained through the American Red Cross and/or American Heart Association should respond accordingly. In all cases, do not attempt a rescue that you are not properly trained for and/or feel comfortable doing. The most critical steps in responding to all types of medical emergencies are: **recognizing an emergency exists, and calling 911.**

Pandemic/Communicable Disease:

- Immediately notify Safety Services (ext. 5555 or **911**).
- Notify the Student Health Center (extension 5200). The Director of the Student Health Center will follow their protocol for handling persons who may be infected with a communicable disease. If there is a risk to the campus community, AU will initiate a campus-wide alert via the AU Emergency Communications Network and contact the local hospital and county health agency.
- Monitor AU communication outlets for updates.

Single Victim:

- Immediately notify Safety Services (ext. 5555 or **911**).
- Check the scene for safety (i.e. live wires, toxic fumes, etc.).
- Check the victim and report the victim's name, location, cause (if known), and nature of injury or illness.
- If trained to do so, render assistance. Ask for consent and wear gloves (if available).
- Do not move a victim unless they are in danger at their present location.
- Use Universal Precautions if blood or bodily fluids are present. Assume all blood and bodily fluids are contaminated.

Most Common Single Victim Medical Emergencies (At AU):

Seizures:

Follow the above procedures for **Single Victim** response in addition to the following:

- Do not try to restrain the victim.
- Do not place anything in the mouth.
- Move any objects (i.e. chairs, desks, etc.) that the victim may strike.
- Non-essential bystanders should be instructed to leave the immediate area (i.e. dismiss class, etc).

Fainting:

Follow the above procedures for **Single Victim** response in addition to the following:

- Monitoring the victim's airway, breathing, and circulation. Place the victim on their side if they begin to vomit.

Breathing Emergencies:

Follow the above procedures for **Single Victim** response in addition to the following:

- If the victim is choking, but able to cough, encourage them to continue to cough.
- If the victim is choking, and unable to speak or cough, a combination of back blows and abdominal thrusts can be administered if you are properly trained and the victim is conscious.
- For shallow and rapid breathing, instruct the victim to take slow, deep breaths. Have the victim sit down.

Open Wounds (Cuts, Abrasions, etc.):

Follow the above procedures for **Single Victim** response in addition to the following:

- Wear gloves. If the victim is conscious and able to apply pressure to the wound, hand them a clean dressing and they can apply pressure until you have gloves on.
- Applying pressure to the wound is the desired method to control bleeding.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not remove impaled objects. Apply dressing around them.

Closed Wounds (Bruises, Broken Bones, etc.):

Follow the above procedures for **Single Victim** response in addition to the following:

To help remember steps for caring for a closed wound injury, remember the acronym **RICE**.

R...Rest. Have the person stop the activity.

I...Immobilize. Do not move the affected part (even to apply a splint).

C...Cold. Apply cold. Use a cloth between the ice and the skin. Apply cold 20 min. on then off 20 min. Repeat.

E...Elevate. Elevate the affected injury location (if doing so doesn't cause pain or additional injury).

- For possible head and neck injuries the victim should be immobilized in the position they are in until advanced medical care arrives. Do not move the victim.

Important Considerations:

- AU has AEDs at various locations on campus. Call the Safety Services office for a list of locations.
- The Good Samaritan laws help protect responders who render assistance, providing the rescuer doesn't attempt procedures beyond their scope of training. If not trained in emergency response you may still provide assistance.
- If the victim is conscious, ask for consent to render assistance. If consent is not given, you can still call **911**.
- If the victim is unconscious, consent is implied.

- Persons with medical conditions that may require an emergency response are encouraged to report any special instructions to co-workers, resident assistant, the Student Health Center and/or the Safety Services office.
- Please refer to the Emergency Communications section for a more comprehensive list of communication outlets.