

## First On The Scene



### What is included in the *First on the Scene* Toolkit

The *First on the Scene* Toolkit was created to be


used by first responder and EMS agencies in partnership with a local chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association. In cases where SCAA does not have a chapter in the area, the Toolkit can be used exclusively by the first responder agency.

*First on the Scene* Toolkit, contains check lists, samples, examples and “how-to’s” to bring education and information into your local community. Some of the topics included in the Toolkit are:

- SCA educational materials and statistics
- How to conduct CPR/AED training programs for students
- How to create an Emergency Action Plan for schools, businesses and community organizations
- Cardiovascular testing and screening efforts
- Tips to set up Public access defibrillation (PAD) programs
- Patient rehabilitation and recovery support programs and resources
- Fundraising and grant opportunities from government, nonprofit and private organizations

*First On the Scene* Toolkit is a **free** resource provided by the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association to assist first responders with their community outreach efforts.

For more information visit:  
[www.suddencardiacarrest.org](http://www.suddencardiacarrest.org) or call  
703-534-1875

  
Sudden  
Cardiac Arrest  
Association  
1250 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036

## First On The Scene



## *First on the Scene:* Working Together to Save Lives

### A Toolkit for Success

Find out how EMS and First Responders can work with the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association To Save Lives from Cardiac Arrest

 Sudden  
Cardiac Arrest  
Association

# First on the Scene Toolkit: Working Together to Save Lives

## Why YOU are important

As emergency responders serving on the front lines of critical care, you've seen the devastating impact that sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) leaves on patients, family members and caregivers. It is your job to be prepared to respond to medical emergencies, and it's equally important that members of the community realize and appreciate the vital role you play in maintaining public health and safety.

Yet, when it comes to helping your community better understand and respond to the nation's leading cause of death, what might seem at first like a simple outreach effort can end up turning into a challenge. Widespread budget cuts force responders to do more with less people and resources. Lack of universally accepted protocols in the treatment of SCA prevents your organization from having the tools to implement a progressive medical response directly benefiting patients in your community.

## National Health Crisis – Sudden Cardiac Arrest

For the past three decades the national survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) has remained a low five percent. A number of efforts taken place in recent years to increase public education of SCA have been met with mixed results. Several state laws are requiring AEDs to be located in public areas, yet federal legislation that would expand access to these lifesaving devices continues to be defeated. CPR guidelines have been revised to focus on chest compressions and thereby encourage more bystander assistance. Still, most people who witness a heart attack or cardiac arrest do not know how to perform CPR. What we are left with is a country unfamiliar with SCA until it's too late: when media reports inform us of a young student dying unexpectedly at school.

## Partner with the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association

By the end of the year, the number of deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) will reach approximately 300,000. Based on this number, one might expect that SCA is some newly identified condition that researchers are just now beginning to understand. As a first responder, you know that the opposite is true.



### The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association (SCAA)

– the nation's leading

nonprofit advocacy organization exclusively dedicated to SCA – is working to establish a national approach to SCA, where prevention, response and treatment are universal and each resident has the same fighting chance of surviving. SCAA's 5,000+ members, represented through more than 50 chapters, are SCA survivors, patient advocates, medical professionals, emergency responders and educational administrators all dedicated to increasing awareness of SCA and expanding access to AEDs and other lifesaving treatments and therapies within their local communities.

## How the *First on the Scene Toolkit* Can Help

SCAA has a large mission and we cannot go alone. First responders play a vital role in the chain of survival. SCAA wants you and your first responder teams to join our efforts to increase awareness of the public health crisis of SCA. The Toolkit provides samples, examples and "how to's" so you can make more positive changes within your local community. SCAA chapter leaders are well informed SCA advocates ready to assist in community outreach, education, training and fundraising.

**Contact SCAA for a copy of the *First on the Scene Toolkit* and get ready to really make a difference!**

## The Strength of the SCAA Chapters

With over 50 chapters across the country, chances are good that SCAA is located near you. Run by SCA survivors, family members, emergency responders, healthcare professionals and other patient advocates, chapters are all dedicated to creating safer communities, deploying publicly accessible AEDs, advocating for expanding good Samaritan protection and other patient-friendly healthcare policies and regulations.

Chapters also provide local "boots on the ground" by:

- holding public speaking events
- participating in health fairs
- training individuals in CPR/AED
- conducting Hero and Survivor Recognition Programs, honoring the selfless acts of professional and lay responders and uniting them with SCA survivors.

SCAA knows that CPR and AEDs are crucial links in the chain of survival. State good Samaritan laws and federal AED legislation also help to create a favorable environment for bystander intervention. But these alone have not been enough to improve the survival rate and expand public awareness.

First responders have a natural inclination to help others and create change, but we realize you cannot go at this alone. We hope you will join us in the fight against SCA. Together, we can be first in prevention, response and recovery...

## ***Get Your Toolkit Today*** **Contact the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association!**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association  
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[www.suddencardiacarrest.org](http://www.suddencardiacarrest.org)  
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[SCAA-info@suddencardiacarrest.org](mailto:SCAA-info@suddencardiacarrest.org)

*SCAA looks forward to working together to change the low survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest!*