

# LOCAL

## Shocking addition: Towns increase AED access

EMILY DOUGHERTY

The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District is adding on to its placement of public access automated defibrillators, or AEDs, throughout the Carbon Valley community.

Automated defibrillators are portable, electronic devices that can automatically diagnose potentially life-threatening conditions of irregular heart rhythms. They can treat a patient through defibrillation, which is electrical therapy that stops the arrhythmia and lets the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

According to a statement from the fire district, firefighters placed 13 automated defibrillators in the towns of Frederick and Firestone the past few years. Two of the defibrillators were donated by Suncor Energy. The donation allowed the district to place one at the Tri-Town Senior/Carbon Valley Gymnastics Center and at Frederick High School.

The district used a Suncor community grant program (dedicated to addressing social issues in communities where Suncor has operations) to place defibrillators at these locations around town.

Fire Chief Theodore Poszywak said, "Through the contributions of Suncor Energy, the ability to place two extra defibrillators is a great benefit to our community."

The addition of AEDs throughout Carbon Valley is an ongoing project for the district. It will continue to place them in public buildings in the coming years.

Currently, other public access defibrillators have been installed at elementary, middle and charter schools and government buildings in the towns of Frederick and Firestone.

Contact Poszywak at 303-833-2742 or visit [www.fffd.us](http://www.fffd.us).

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