



Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association



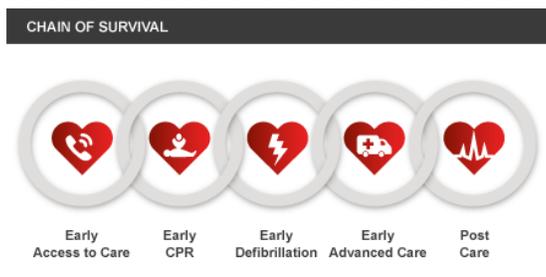
Position Statement: Support for SB 684; Issued February 23, 2015

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.

The mission of the CFCA is to promote the position of Chief Fire Officers in Connecticut as the leaders of the fire service through continuing education, unity in the fire service, safety, and professionalism as a fire officer. The association is involved in legislative issues, training, regulatory and many other facets of the fire service. The CFCA represents Chief Fire Officers from across the State of Connecticut.

According to the American Heart Association:

1. **Cardiac Arrest is a leading cause of death in the US.**
2. **Every hour in the U.S. approximately 48 people will have a cardiac arrest** outside of the hospital.
3. Nine out of ten cardiac arrest victims will not survive.
4. **If lifesaving CPR is performed, a victim's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest can double!**
5. Surviving sudden cardiac arrest depends on a public trained in **CPR and the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED).**
6. There are 5 links in the Chain of Survival. When these links align into a complete chain, they allow a patient who is suffering from Cardiac Arrest to have the best odds of survival.



7. Pierson High School in Sag Harbor, NY began its CPR program in 1994. Since that time, 16 lives have been saved because these students used their CPR skills in the real world! **If the children from one school can save 16 lives, imagine how many lives we could save if all students in Connecticut learned CPR before graduation.**
8. Training students in CPR can be accomplished with a minimal investment in time and cost. According to the latest science, **CPR trainees—including school children—can achieve acceptable levels of CPR skills proficiency in 30 minutes or less.**
9. **The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association is a staunch advocate of the importance of CPR. Our members stand ready to offer a 1 hour CPR Class with a Question and Answer Session at the Legislative Office Building to all interested members of the Connecticut General Assembly.**
10. The Connecticut Department of Public Health administers the **HEARTSafe Communities** program to promote and recognize the efforts of local municipalities to provide improved cardiac response and care to its residents. A **HEARTSafe Community** promotes and supports: CPR training in the community; public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members; and early advanced care. **Make Connecticut a Heart Safe State in 2015!**

For additional information:

CFCA President Marc A. Scrivener
Chief, Willimantic Fire Department
Phone: 860.465.3120
Email: mscrivener@windhamct.com

CFCA Legislative Committee Chair Mary-Ellen L. Harper
Director of Fire & Rescue Services, Town of Farmington
Phone: 860.675.2322
Email: HarperM@Farmington-CT.org