



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2016

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Lifesaving Technology Brought to Yolo County via PulsePoint App

(Woodland, CA) – The PulsePoint app, in covered communities, is a virtual window into 911 communication centers, providing residents real-time access to emergency activity as it is occurring, such as fire and ambulance dispatches. The app now empowers individuals in Yolo County with the ability to provide life-saving assistance to victims of cardiac arrest.

Those with knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can now download the PulsePoint app to receive alerts when a sudden cardiac arrest occurs in a public place within a quarter-mile of their immediate vicinity. Users will be able to quickly find the victim and begin CPR while awaiting arrival of emergency medical services (EMS). The app also provides detailed instructions and locations of nearby automatic external defibrillators (AEDs).

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States. The American Heart Association estimates that effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person's chance of survival. However, less than half of cardiac arrest victims receive bystander CPR, and even fewer receive a potentially lifesaving therapeutic shock from a public AED.

Improving bystander CPR rates and access to AEDs is critical to the chain of survival, which requires: 1) early recognition of the emergency and phoning 911 for EMS; 2) early bystander CPR; 3) early delivery of a shock via a defibrillator if indicated; and 4) early advanced life support and post-resuscitation care delivered by healthcare providers. Different than a heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest is caused when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart stops working properly. For every minute that passes without a cardiac arrest victim receiving resuscitation, the chances of that person surviving decrease 10 percent. After only 10 minutes, the chances of survival are minimal.

"I encourage all Yolo County residents to learn Hands Only CPR and to download this life-saving mobile app," said Kristin Weivoda, Yolo County EMS Agency.

Those interested in learning how to perform Hands Only CPR can visit: http://cpr.heart.org/AHA/ECC/CPRECC/Programs/HandsOnlyCPR/UCM_473196_Hands-Only-CPR.jsp.

The PulsePoint app can be downloaded for free on any mobile device. Additionally there is a PulsePoint AED app, which allows the public to register locations of publicly accessible AEDs. For more information on the PulsePoint apps, visit: <http://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepointrespond/>.

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