



# CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS **IN COMMUNITIES**

Each year, more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital in the U.S., 90% of which are fatal. That's because only about 40% get the immediate help they need before emergency responders arrive.

**You do not have to be trained as a first responder to save a life.**

## What is a CERP?

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a written document that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in community settings. It can be stand-alone guidelines or merged with an organization's existing medical emergency response plans. It should be posted at key locations throughout the school and practiced regularly.

The safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, and others can be enhanced when the CERP teams are trained and empowered to administer lifesaving care until emergency medical services arrive.



## Empowering a Nation of Lifesavers™

The American Heart Association is working to turn bystanders into lifesavers so that in the time of cardiac emergency, anyone, anywhere, is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival and provide CPR.

### THAT MEANS:

- ▶ Ensuring every community organization has a CERP in place.
- ▶ Working directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the CERP into the community's EMS responder protocols.



**JOIN THE NATION OF LIFESAVERS™**

[heart.org/nation](http://heart.org/nation)

## Did You Know?

**MORE THAN 350,000** out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur each year in the U.S.

**LESS THAN HALF** of all the people who need CPR, receive it.

**9 OUT OF 10** people who suffer cardiac arrest outside of the hospital do not survive.

CERPs can **MORE THAN DOUBLE SURVIVAL RATES** from cardiac arrest by empowering people nearby to take action and:

