

May 24, 2007

For more information, contact:  
Leslie Dybiec, Public Information Officer  
Phone: (614) 652-3928  
Fax: (614) 766-2507

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Washington Township Fire Department and Dublin Schools Partner in Heart Safe Schools**

Dublin, OH – Washington Township Fire Department and the Dublin Schools have partnered to make Dublin Schools a Heart Safe School District. Heart Safe schools have at least one automatic external defibrillator (AED) accessible to all building employees, students and staff who are trained to know how and when to use them.

Research indicates that the combination of early bystander CPR plus early defibrillation produces the highest survival rates from adult sudden cardiac arrest.

Washington Township has been working in concert with the City of Dublin, the school district and many businesses to increase the number of AEDs available in the Township. “Obtaining the AEDs is the first step. The next step is to make sure employees know how to use them,” said Jack McCoy, EMS Manager for the Washington Township Fire Department.

Washington Township provided training on the use of AEDs for all school staff. Washington Township’s Medical Directors have also been valuable resources in helping to create policies for operating, software and hardware updates, and placing the AEDs.

Dublin Schools Nurse Susie Kranstuber has been an advocate of this program since its inception in 2004. “Without the District’s commitment through Susie, this partnership would have never been able to grow to 25 AEDs in this short time. We are proud to partner with the schools and commend their leadership in making this a priority,” said McCoy.

Washington Township offers CPR certification classes that include instruction on the use of AEDs. Classes are offered monthly on the second Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

To register, contact the Washington Township Fire Department at (614) 652-3920, Monday - Friday.

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The Washington Township Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and education and safety programs for Washington Township, which encompasses parts of Franklin, Delaware and Union Counties.