

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-sdefib12mar12,0,78458.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

Defibrillator ordinance starts

Weston seeks compliance, not citations

By Joe Kollin
Staff Writer

March 12, 2005

WESTON · Help is now a step closer for heart attack victims in the city.

Starting Sunday, Weston businesses must provide the public with easy-to-use automatic external defibrillators under an ordinance believed to be the first of its kind in the state.

Although business operators and landlords who don't have the device installed and inspected will face 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine, city officials don't expect to begin citing violators anytime soon.

"We won't be looking to cite people, we're looking for compliance," said Mayor Eric Hersh.

Besides, he said, the devices already can be seen in most businesses.

"Fire personnel have been continuously going out, business-by-business, giving out copies of the ordinance and helping each business through the process," he said. "No one will be surprised and many businesses have complied, so we really don't expect any problems."

He said no one has objected to having to buy the devices, which cost about \$1,700 to \$2,000 each.

The City Commission adopted the ordinance on Sept. 13 but delayed enforcement for six months.

Max's Grille, at 2210 Weston Road, installed its defibrillator in November, according to manager Erin Mullen. Luckily, she said, it hasn't been used.

Even though the devices are made for novices to use, her staff is trained.

"We have a couple of employees in training as paramedics and several are certified in CPR, so there will always be someone here to use it," she said.

Automatic defibrillators, which deliver an electric shock to the heart through adhesive electrodes connected to the patient's chest, are made for the average person to use. Rather than having to read instructions, a voice tells how to use them. As a safety feature, the device first determines if



defibrillation is necessary.

Other cities have since followed Weston, including Coral Springs, which mandated defibrillators in November, and New York City, which passed its law in February.

Weston's code requires the devices in all places of public assembly; office buildings larger than 20,000 square feet; gyms, fitness centers and indoor recreational centers larger than 1,500 square feet; restaurants with 100 or more seats; stores larger than 35,000 square feet; and all hotels and motels.

The code also requires the devices to be "located in plain view," maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and inspected annually by the city. The code also makes it illegal to improperly service or repair the device, use someone else's inspection certificate or damage a device.

The city has asked the state to make vandalizing a defibrillator a crime punishable by one year in jail. The punishment now is up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

The Cleveland Clinic in Weston is providing free training and the Weston Business Chamber of Commerce is getting discounts on the devices for those required to have them. Call the Cleveland Clinic at 954-689-5268 and the chamber at 954-660-0601.

Joe Kollin can be reached at jkollin@sun-sentinel.com or 954-385-7913.

Copyright © 2005, [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)