What are they?
AEDs, or Automated External Defibrillators, are lightweight and portable devices to assist patients with irregular heart rhythms to normal heart rhythms through the delivery of an electronic shock. These devices when used early and correctly, with CPR, can effectively save someone’s life.

How does an AED work?
An AED can detect the patient’s heart rhythm, and there must be a rhythm to shock. If the heart is no longer beating, an AED will not shock nor would it be effective. Typically a shockable heart rhythm is when the heart is beating very rapidly or unsynchronized, but not effectively. “The AED delivers a shock through the heart which stops it, allowing it to reset back to a normal rhythm. The heart must be ‘defibrillated’ quickly, because a victim’s chance of surviving drops by 7 to 10 percent for every minute a normal heartbeat isn’t restored.” American Heart Association

Can I use an AED?
Non-medical folks can use these, however it is highly recommended that they should be trained to do so. At the same time, we would never want an AED not to be used if you are not trained but feel comfortable following verbal and visual instructions, as every device on campus has these. If you want to join in a quick 15-30 minute training, please contact Safety and Risk Management at 994-7760 to schedule a class.

Are AEDs safe to use?
The American Heart Association says “AEDs are safe to use by anyone who's been trained to operate them. Studies have shown that 90 percent of the time AEDs are able to detect a rhythm that should be defibrillated. And 95 percent of the time they are able to recommend NOT shocking when the computer shows defibrillation is not indicated.”

Where are AEDs located?
Bozeman is a fortunate place where numerous AEDs are in town. MSU has over 50 AEDs on campus, locations can be found on a map at: http://www.montana.edu/srm/aedlocations/ The Bozeman Water/Sewer department has an AED in each of their vehicles. Several other businesses across town also have AEDs.

What to do in case of a cardiac (heart) emergency?
First - Make sure you are safe.
Second - Call 911 to report the incident.
Third - Begin to administer care up to your level of training. Early CPR and AED use is critical to saving lives.

How do I get training on AEDs, CPR or First Aid?
There are numerous courses throughout town, however the SRM department offers free courses. Contact the Training and Development Coordinator at 994-7760 or srmtraining@montana.edu to enroll in a course.