



**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
AND
THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Understanding is to continue a working relationship between The American Red Cross (ARC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) for the matters described below and to replace their earlier Statement of Understanding for such matters. This Statement outlines the broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in providing information to their chapters and affiliates regarding the equivalency of topics and content in First Aid, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) training programs, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.

This Statement of Understanding is being established in consideration of the fact the ARC and AHA serve similar audiences and a common purpose to increase the number of people trained in First Aid and CPR. Along with reaching similar populations the ARC and AHA also share similarities in the content of their training programs. This collaboration will allow ARC Chapters and AHA state and local affiliates to provide information and recognition of the other's training to both instructors and to end users.

II. Concept of Operations:

Each party to this SOU is a separate and independent organization. As such, each organization retains its own identity in providing service and each organization is responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities.

III. Mission of The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. It does this through services that are consistent with its congressional charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

IV. Mission of The American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

V. **Organization of the American Red Cross**

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and regulations that govern American Red Cross activities, and for giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to the chartered units. Chartered units include chapters and Blood Services regions. The Board of Governors has delegated to the duly constituted volunteer governing board of each chartered unit the authority and responsibility for: (a) governance of the chartered unit, (b) delivery of authorized services in the territorial jurisdiction of the chartered unit, (c) meeting corporate obligations, in conformity with and subject to the limitations stated in corporate regulations.

The American Red Cross provides services in the following five (5) lines of service: Biomedical Services, Disaster Services, Health and Safety Services, International Services, and Armed Forces Emergency Services.

Each chartered unit has the authority and responsibility for carrying out the purposes of the American Red Cross, for delivering local American Red Cross services, and for meeting corporate obligations within the territorial jurisdiction assigned in conformity with corporate regulations. The chartered units ("chapters") coordinate their work through eight (8) regional service areas.

VI. **Organization of the American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases in communities across America. To prevent, treat and defeat these diseases, the association funds research, educates the public and health professionals, and advocates for healthier communities.

The American Heart Association is a single corporation, divided physically into the National Center located in Dallas, Texas, and 10 affiliate offices that cover the United States. Operations are divided into seven main areas: Office of Chief Executive Officer, Advocacy, Corporate Operations, Field Operations and Development (which includes ECC), Healthcare Markets, Science Operations and Technology, and Customer Strategies.

The American Heart Association is a volunteer board led organization. The Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee, which formulates scientific standards of care and guidelines for the ECC training programs in the United States is commissioned by the American Heart Association Board of Directors. The ECC

Committee has five sub-committees on Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, Pediatric Life Support, Education, and the Program Administration Committee. The ECC Program Administration Committee establishes the training and program standards of all ECC courses.

The Emergency Cardiovascular Care business unit is a National Center operational unit with both National Center and Affiliate-Regional based staff. The ECC program is comprised of 105 ECC field staff covering 43 Regions comprising the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; the ECC program additionally has international staff providing services to more than 50 countries. Services of the Emergency Cardiovascular Care program include Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (in partnership with the AAP.) The National ECC office provides administrative and technical oversight to the Regional staff and programs.

The ECC program has over 270,000 instructors in BLS, ACLS, and PALS, who teach through 3,500 authorized Training Centers in the United States and throughout the World. Courses are delivered to healthcare providers, corporate workforces, public and parochial schools students and teachers, military servicemen and women, and the general public.

VII. Method of Understanding

ARC and AHA agree to recognize the other's student level CPR and First Aid training programs as equivalent in content, as shown in the following table of courses. The recognition is for entrance into an appropriate provider (student) renewal course or an instructor course.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

American Red Cross	Recommended Audience	American Heart Association
CPR—Adult	Lay rescuers	<i>Heartsaver CPR: Adult</i>
CPR—Child and Infant	Lay rescuers	<i>Heartsaver CPR: Pediatric</i>
CPR/AED—Adult and Child	Lay rescuers	<i>Heartsaver AED (includes adult CPR certification)</i>
CPR —Adult, Infant and Child	Lay rescuers	<i>Heartsaver CPR: Adult and Pediatric</i>
First Aid or Standard First Aid	Lay rescuers	<i>Heartsaver First Aid</i>

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer		Healthcare providers and professional rescuers		<i>Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers</i>
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ARC agrees to:

- Inform their instructors, chapters, other units or departments, and otherwise widely distribute, this Statement of Understanding and urge full cooperation with the Statement of Understanding.
- Recognize the quality of the AHA's instructors, and expedite the process for AHA instructors to become authorized to teach similar ARC courses in First Aid, CPR and AED usage. The Administrative Guidelines for Crossover Courses which provide a framework for cross training AHA instructors to become ARC instructors will be maintained and widely distributed.
- Recognize the AHA's certification for the same time period as the ARC's equivalent certificate.
- Acknowledge the American Heart Association in bringing together top scientists and researchers to evaluate the latest cardiovascular and resuscitation research and develop the published consensus for the treatment of cardiovascular emergencies.
- Recognize that the American Heart Association is the nation's largest voluntary health agency fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. Through donations and fundraising events, the American Heart Association annually funds cardiovascular research throughout the United States.

AHA agrees to:

- Inform their instructors, affiliates, other units or departments, and otherwise widely distribute, this Statement of Understanding and will urge full cooperation with the Statement of Understanding.
- Recognize the quality of the ARC's instructors, and expedite the process for ARC instructors to be authorized to teach the AHA's similar courses in First Aid, CPR and AED usage. A Crossover Agenda which provides a framework for cross training ARC instructors to become AHA instructors will be maintained and widely distributed.

- Recognize the ARC's certification for the time period indicated on the certification.
- Recognize that the American Red Cross is the premiere provider of humanitarian disaster relief services. The American Heart Association supports the position of the American Red Cross in conducting special appeals and campaigns for funds during times of disaster.

The organizations will strive to ensure that open communications between the parties is maintained. Communications systems such as meetings, conferences, telephone calls, and email will be utilized.

Recognizing the need for advising the public of the work of both organizations, the American Red Cross and American Heart Association will make every effort through their public information offices to keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts.

The ARC and AHA will actively seek to determine other areas/services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial and to amend this Statement of Understanding accordingly to include such agreements.

Recognizing the need for advising the public of the work of both organizations, the American Red Cross and American Heart Association will make every effort through their public information offices to keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts.

The organizations agree that any mutual expenses incurred as a result of cooperation or collaboration under the terms of this Statement of Understanding will be apportioned as agreed to in writing by both parties prior to incurring such expenses.

Use of the name and emblem of one party by the other party shall be allowed only in the case of particular projects undertaken and only upon obtaining the prior express written consent.

VIII. Periodic Review

Representatives of the American Red Cross Preparedness and Health and Safety Services Department and American Heart Association, Emergency Cardiovascular Care Programs will meet annually, on or around the anniversary date of this Statement of Understanding, to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Statement of Understanding and to revise and develop new plans or goals as

appropriate.

IX. Term of Statement of Understanding

This Statement of Understanding shall be effective on June 30, 2007 and expire on June 30, 2011. Six months prior to expiration, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the Statement of Understanding and determine whether it should be extended for an additional five years. Any agreed extension shall be memorialized by the parties in writing. In no event shall any extension of this Statement of Understanding be for a period exceeding five (5) years.

This Statement of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other.

X. Miscellaneous.

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.

Scott Conner
Vice President
Preparedness and Health and Safety
American Red Cross

Michael C. Bell
Vice President
ECC Programs
American Heart Association

Date: _____

Date: _____