



# Town of Darien

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## Health Department

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### Darien Again Earns HEARTSafe Community Designation



Darien has been notified by the Connecticut Department of Public Health that the town once again meets the renewal requirements for being designated as a “HEARTSafe Community”. This three year designation recognizes Darien’s continued commitment in providing improved cardiac response and care to residents and visitors utilizing the “Chain of Survival” concept. Recognition was first conferred to the town in 2009.

The four vital links to the “Chain of Survival” include early access to emergency care, early advanced care, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and early defibrillation. Darien far exceeded the standards established to be a HEARTSafe Community and has actually improved upon those requirements since first receiving the designation in 2009.

Award criteria are population based and relate to the provision of cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and the availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the community as well as rapid response to emergency calls. Some highlights include:

- Award guidelines require the training of 50 citizens in CPR – Post 53 certified 455 individuals in AED/CPR last year, alone.
- AEDs are currently available at 59 locations, while the minimum requirement for a community with Darien’s population is to have 10 sites. Locations with AEDs include town owned buildings, the Mather Center, Weed Beach, Pear Tree Point Beach, the library, the schools and private locations such as the YMCA, and the country clubs.
- AEDs are carried by all Post 53 ambulances, Darien Police vehicles, and Darien Fire Department trucks.

Obtaining the designation as a HEARTSafe Community represents a true community effort of not just the vital fire, police, and emergency medical services, but also of various town departments, schools, businesses and individuals that provided training opportunities and purchased publicly located automated

external defibrillators (AEDs). Just as important are those citizens who took the time and effort to become CPR/AED certified. Darien Post 53 continues to be our community training center for the American Heart Association, training hundreds of citizens each year.

Commenting on the previous award received in 2015, Jayme Stevenson, Darien First Selectman said at that time “We are very proud to, again, receive community recognition from the Connecticut Department of Health for exceeding the requirements and earning their HEARTSafe Community designation. Credit goes to the hard work of Darien's Health Department staff and in cooperation with Post 53, the Darien Police Department, Darien's 3 volunteer fire departments and the Darien Public Schools, as well as the voluntary participation from an ever growing number of community partners. Community awareness, HEARTSafe education and skilled response saves lives.”



*Paula Sutcliffe, the Public Health Nurse for the Darien Health Department coordinated this award application effort with Joan Gildea of Post 53.*

*For more information on life – saving classes offered by Post 53, visit the website <http://www.post53.info>*