

First Responder



SEPTEMBER '07 Newsletter

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KIT INCLUDES:

- * Oxy Resus Soft Pack
- * **ZOLL AED PLUS DEFIBRILLATOR**
- * **RESQPOD**
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- * Therapy Masks (adult & child)
- * Oropharyngeal Airways -Set of 3
- * V-Vac Suction Kit with spare cartridge
- * Stifneck Select Cervical Collar
- * Instructions for Use

Postage ,Handling & Cylinder not included

Coroner recommends AEDs and training in workplace after fatality

A Queensland coroner this month made strong recommendations regarding the installation of AEDs and formal first aid procedures for responding to heart attacks after a fatality.

The Queensland coroner has recommended that an employer ensures it has workers trained in CPR on each shift, and that it purchase a defibrillator after an employee suffered a fatal heart attack at its site. The worker was employed as a fitter. In September 2004, he died while checking electrical equipment.

Coroner Stephen Guttridge held an inquest into the death to determine if it was due to electrocution or a heart condition. He took into account that while the assumption among co-workers was that the worker had been electrocuted, several colleagues had noticed him looking pale and unwell shortly before he collapsed. He also heard from technical experts who tested the electrical equipment (solenoid tester), three times and found no leakage of electricity. Further, he heard that even if there had been some leakage, it could not have been fatal because the power went through a transformer that limited the voltage output to a 24-volt DC current.

Coroner Guttridge accepted the evidence of medical experts that there was no evidence of electrocution and that the cause of death was Myocarditis - an inflammatory lesion on the heart. He said the worker's death was "unforeseen and, on the evidence, not preventable". However, he said there was evidence about the company's practices and procedures that needed addressing.

Coroner Guttridge recommended that the employer:

1. formalise a procedure to ensure there were two persons trained in first aid and CPR on each shift;
2. ensure there were proper risk assessment procedures in place;
3. ensure that formalised job safety training was carried out. The Coroner found that after basic induction training, there was no formal ongoing training but rather an "ad hoc approach to dealing with these issues"; and
4. purchase a defibrillator - there was much evidence that they could increase the prospects of a successful resuscitation of someone suffering from cardiac arrest and the Coroner said it would be "beneficial" if the company purchased one and provided appropriate training in its use.

What procedure does your workplace have, to appropriately respond to a cardiac arrest ???



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and prerequisites apply

How long can an AED survive underwater ??

ZOLL AED PRO vs. LAKE GRAPEVINE

- Routine boating exercise proves anything
but routine.

The Story Flower Mound Police
Department and Fire and Emergency Services
Department were conducting training exercises
on Lake Grapevine near the Dallas/Ft. Worth
area. The training involved a 22-ft boat both departments use to help maintain

order on one of the busiest recreational lakes in the area. One training maneuver is to reverse the boat at high speed. As a Flower Mound police sergeant undertook this maneuver, the boat began to take on water at the stern. Load distribution of the other passengers was inappropriate, resulting in the boat listing to the right side. As the water continued to spill over the stern, the list increased. Before it could be corrected, the boat capsized, sending all aboard into Lake Grapevine. Officers on a nearby boat called for assistance. "I was meeting with the city manager when the call came in," said Scott Mitchell, Flower Mound's Assistant Fire Chief. "We responded to the scene in about 15 minutes. All parties were wearing floatation devices and escaped unscathed." Grapevine Fire/Rescue towed the capsized boat to a marina

Five long hours later, a salvage crew finally righted the boat using air bags. Chief Mitchell noted, "The good news was that some of the equipment was fastened down and in watertight cases. The bad news was that even though our new ZOLL AED Pro was fastened down, it wasn't in a watertight case and it was submerged for over five hours." As a salvage crew member handed him the AED Pro's canvas bag, Lake Grapevine came pouring out of it. Chief Mitchell opened the case to find a waterlogged set of electrodes and emergency kit. Fortunately, nothing indicated that water had gotten into the AED Pro itself.

The AED Pro has been tested for particle and water ingress, and has a rating of IP55—the highest rating of any AED available today. "I fired it right up and it went into its self-check," said Chief Mitchell. "It presented itself as good to go. I was really quite impressed that the AED Pro worked as advertised." Just to be safe, Chief Mitchell had the AED Pro sent back to ZOLL to have it evaluated by technical services. The AED Pro unit passed all tests and was released to go back into service.



*Zoll AED Pro- submerged for 5 hours
without any waterproof case.*

*Apart from having to replace the water
soaked electrodes the unit was immediately
functional and was put back into service
without any repairs after a technical
inspection.*

*Zoll AEDs have the highest IP rating of
any defibrillator available today (IP55)*



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- * Sphygmomanometer (palm style)
- * Stethoscope (Sprague)
- * Penlight torch
- * Paramedic shears
- * Sharps container
- * Stifneck Select Cervical Collar
- * Instructions for Use

Saudi Fire Fighters complete FRA Emergency Medical Response program

This month saw 22 Australian and International participants complete the Certificate IV Emergency Medical Response program in Cairns. This year has seen trainees from Singapore, UK and Saudi Arabia.

First Response Australia's general manager Lisieux Afeaki said the interest from overseas has been quite overwhelming.

"We are the only company in the state offering a Certificate IV for Emergency Medical Technician training which is now the standard sought after by many industries" she said.

Three Saudi Fire Fighter Trainers graduated from the August program and headed back home taking with them skills and qualifications usually not available to them in their profession.

Trainee Wail Al Ajlan said that the company (Saudi Basic Industries) sent them to new parts of the world each year to improve their standards in delivering Fire Fighting and Emergency Care training.

Cairns rafting company - world first in using EMTs

Raging Thunder Adventures, a Cairns based adventure company has taken the lead and trained six of its senior river guides as EMTs. In July of this year the six guides successfully completed the Certificate IV in Emergency Medical Response conducted by First Response Australia.



Until now, guides had only been trained to Senior First Aid or "Wilderness First Aid" levels. General Manager of Raging Thunder, Donna Graham, said, "In the past, adventure tours were the domain of the young and fit, but in recent times we have noticed our clientele are from all nationalities and walks of life and we have seen the need to upgrade our services to cater for this demand. Technological advances have now made it possible to carry a compact and durable Defibrillator unit capable of withstanding the rigours of white water rafting tours in remote and challenging environments, and our guides are now qualified to provide emergency care immediately following an incident such as drowning or heart attack."

General Manager of Cairns based First Response Australia, Lisieux Afeaki, said, "Our Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program is the premier course in the country for the management of casualty's in remote areas where traditional levels of First Aid training are insufficient, and it is encouraging to see company's such as Raging Thunder including this in their safety programs."

Ms Graham said "We will be placing qualified guides in key positions within the rafting trips to be able to act appropriately to medical emergencies should they arise.

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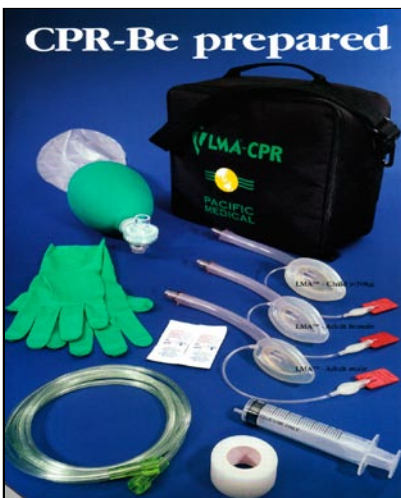
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"This response will now include an on-river oxygen kit and on-river defibrillator to compliment our comprehensive first aid and trauma kit."

"We are the first company in the world to take client safety to this level. It is a testament to the training and professionalism of our staff that we are now able to provide the highest level of on-river medical assistance possible."



What really is an EMT ?

The term "Emergency Medical Technician" (EMT) is relatively new in Australia. Although widely used in just about the rest of the world, Australia has resisted the term and has opted for "Ambulance Officer" in most states along with the term "paramedic" to designate the more highly qualified officers.

Being the largest provider of training for EMTs we still spend a lot of our time explaining to many, what an EMT really is.

An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is an emergency responder trained to provide emergency medical services to the critically ill and injured.

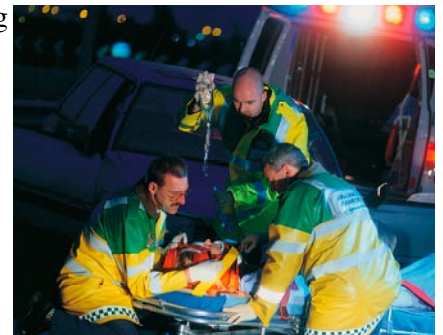
Once thought of as an "ambulance driver or attendant," the modern EMT performs many more duties than in the past, and responds to many types of emergency calls, including medical emergencies, hazardous materials exposure, childbirth, child abuse, fires, rescues, injuries, trauma and psychiatric crises.

EMTs are trained in basic medical knowledge and skills. Patient treatment guidelines are described in protocols or guidelines following both national and local medical policies.

The goal of EMT intervention is to rapidly evaluate a patient's condition and to maintain a patient's airway, breathing and circulation by CPR and defibrillation. In addition, EMT intervention aims to control external bleeding, prevent shock, and prevent further injury or disability by immobilizing potential spinal or other bone fractures, while expediting the safe and timely transport of the patient to a hospital emergency department for definitive medical care.

In the United States, EMTs are certified according to their level of training.

Individual states set their own standards of certification (or licensure, in some cases). All EMT training must meet the minimum requirements as set forth in the U.S. Department of Transportation's standards for the EMT-B (Emergency Medical Technician - Basic) curriculum.



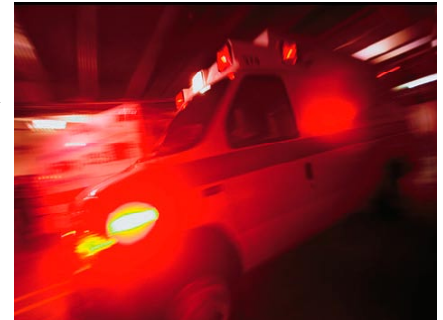
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In Australia EMTs are trained to Certificate IV from either private, nationally accredited training products or Health Training packages and are generally employed in Industrial Paramedic roles. EMS professionals working in Australian Ambulatory services are trained by state ambulance authorities.

EMTs may be employed by a commercial hospital or municipal EMS (Emergency Medical Service) agency or fire department. Some EMTs may be employed by private, commercial ambulance services (usually) providing non-emergency patient transportation, or providing emergency medical services to "emergency calls" under contract with municipalities or county governments. Some EMTs may work in clinical settings, such as a hospital's emergency department, while others may be employed in an industrial setting, or for 'home health care' providers.

Many industries are utilising EMT training to meet their OHS obligations to care for workers and visitors to the workplace. This is due to the realisation that standard "first aid" training is often inadequate in terms of response and pre-hospital care. EMTs may also be employed by private ambulance services, which provide non-emergency transportation of in-hospital patients.



In many American and Canadian locales, firefighters and some police officers (particularly in the Highway Patrol) are now also cross-trained as EMTs; the majority of these are EMT-Bs, although a growing number of prospective firefighters earn EMT-P (Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic) certification in order to increase their chances of being hired.

Some large companies, especially industrial facilities, even maintain their own in-house EMTs as part of the plant's fire fighting or security guard force. Some colleges and universities train EMTs and host student run EMS in their areas to respond to student medical emergencies.

In response to nursing shortages in the USA, EMT-Ps are being increasingly used in the emergency rooms and Intensive Care Units of hospitals, where they can serve as Emergency Room (ER) technicians, with varying scopes of practice.

In Australia, we have yet to see EMT-Ps being utilised in Emergency room scopes due to health department, criteria and the current practice of looking at Nurse Practitioners.

This will no doubt change as Governments realise that qualified EMTs both outside and inside the State Ambulatory Services can be utilised to ease the ever increasing stress the Health Care System is finding itself in to provide quality care to industry and the community.

A national Registry of EMTs has been established in Australia to assist with the promotion of recognition and reciprocation of qualifications across both Australia and Internationally.

That's what an EMT is !!!!!!!

The Last Word

Well it's here !!!! The latest in Defibrillation technology is now available with Zoll's new RSeries Defibrillators. This unit has the amazing ability to analyse a cardiac rhythm whilst CPR is taking place. What this means is that coronary perfusion pressure can be maintained right up to the deliver of a shock. It's called "See-Thru CPR"

See-Thru CPR reduces interruptions by allowing clinicians to see organized electrical activity during CPR compressions by filtering out compression artifact ("noise"). This lets rescuers see a patient's underlying cardiac rhythm during resuscitation efforts and eliminates the need to stop compressions to see if defibrillation was successful. This will increase outcomes dramatically.

MORE ON THIS IS OUR NEXT ISSUE !!!!!!!

*Charles Makray
Managing Director*

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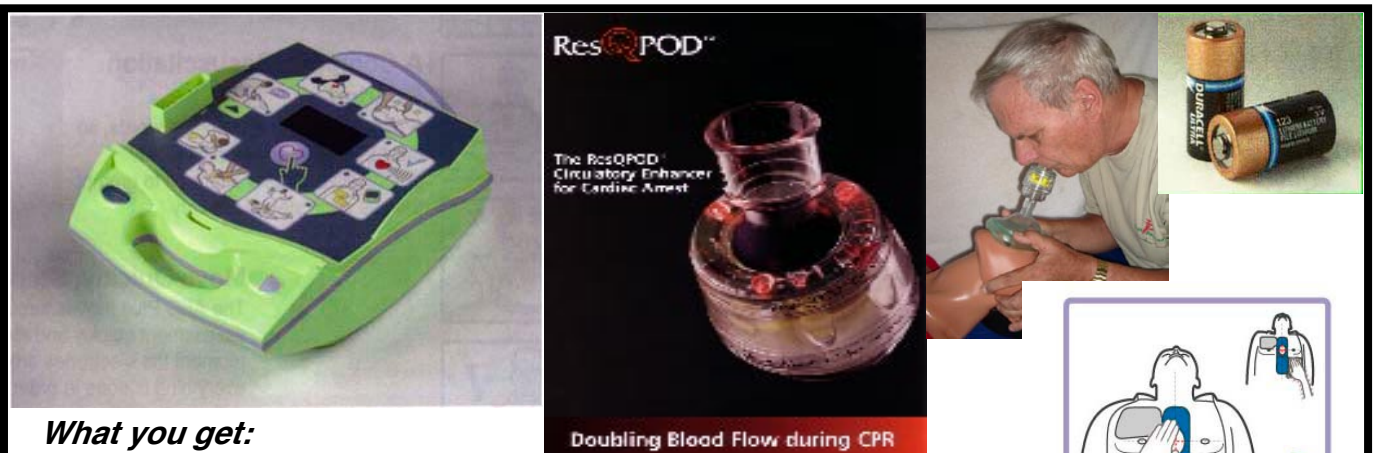
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