



# FIRST RESPONDER November '04 Newsletter

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- \* Newmont Pajingo best team in Mine Rescue Challenge
- \* Ernest Henry Mine best medics in Mine Rescue Challenge - 3 years running
- \* FRA takes on Zoll AED distributorship
- \* Australasian Registry of EMTs launched

## Concerns over AED teaching - do providers deliver the right training ?

First Response Australia has received enquiries from industry groups and HR departments asking "can a person who has completed a generic course in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) be deemed competent to use any AED in any workplace?" **Our answer to that question is NO!**

FRA continually comes across this problem in two areas of emergency response training - firstly, use of oxygen resuscitation equipment and secondly, the use of Automated External Defibrillators. In the workplace there exists a huge variety of equipment used by "First Responders" and EMTs. One thing is for certain - there is no such thing as "standard equipment".

In regards to AEDs there are approximately 8 types currently on the market and along with superseded models this results in a huge variety being used in many workplaces. (see list)

No one argues that the availability of AEDs in workplaces has the potential to save many lives. This has been validated in many studies.

The problem arises that each brand of AED usually has different styles of electrodes, different battery systems and different performance levels in regards to monitoring and alerting the operator when shockable rhythms are detected.

Two examples come to mind that would cause confusion and delay in delivering life saving treatment:

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The first is the variety of electrode pads available. In particular the Zoll AED Plus has what we believe a unique and user friendly single pad system. We have seen students trying to rip them apart assuming that they were a two piece system. This occurred after a particular company had purchased the unit but received training from a provider who did not know the unit and trained the participants with another brand.

To our astonishment we have found this not to be just a "one off situation".

Everyone is told how easy it is to use a defibrillator and there is truth to that statement. But when "Response Teams" have to deal with a cardiac arrest there is no time to reading instructions and looking at little pictures on the back of the pads.

Listed below are just some of the AED units we have delivered training for across the board to industry:

Zoll AED Plus  
Heartstart 911  
Heartstart FR  
Heartstart FR2  
Heartstart 3000  
Heartstart 4000  
Heartstart First Aid  
Survivalink First Save  
Lifepak 500  
Lifepak 300  
Allen Welch 10  
and more



Except for their algorithms, each unit may have quite varying features but all require a "dummy" training model, training card or a system where the real defibrillator can be connected to specialised manikins to facilitate quality and relevant training.

FRA has training contracts throughout the country and as such is obligated to deliver tailored and relevant training.

If you have AEDs in the workplace and have staff trained in Defibrillation, we would suggest that a system be in place to ensure competency in the use of **your** equipment

Make sure your training provider can deliver !!!!

*Edited by Charles Makray - managing director*

Visit us at [www.FirstResponseAustralia.com.au](http://www.FirstResponseAustralia.com.au)

**SPECIALISTS IN EMERGENCY CARE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**

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This new competency employs the new Australian Draft Standards for dealing with MCI and the Challenge assessors were quite impressed with this new and innovative approach which paid dividends for Pajingo.

A newcomer to the Mines Rescue Challenge was the Qld. Fire and Rescue Service team from Townsville. Thrown together virtually at the last minute they produced an outstanding result, coming fourth overall. First Response Australia was asked to come to their rescue as the team had no emergency medical equipment available for the competition. FRA shipped to the team an array of medical packs, stretchers, immobilisation and pain management equipment. Their medic Trevor Doyle (another FRA trained EMT) deserves praise for a job well done in such a difficult situation. I think the future teams from QFRS will become big achievers in these competitions.

The "Challenge" aims to improve skills and techniques that may be required by Mines Rescue Teams in their daily working life. First Response Australia looks forward to again being part of this process with delivering its innovative Medical Response programs and being a sponsor of the "Challenge". Congratulations again to all competitors.

## Mines Rescue Challenge - 2004

### The results

This year's competition saw 15 Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) compete in 3 gruelling days of challenge in events which tested their skills in disciplines such as Endurance, Multi Casualty, Integrated Team, Hazardous Chemical Incident, Road Accident Rescue, Height Rescue, Search and Rescue, Technical Team and Pre-hospital Care.

The overall placings were:

- Pajingo Mine
- Curragh Mine
- Ernest Henry Mine
- Qld. Fire And Rescue
- WMC Fertilizers
- Osborne Mines
- Bengalla
- Oaky Creek
- Goonwella Riverside
- Readymix
- Callide Mine
- Cannington Mine
- Mt Isa Mine
- Mt Gordon
- Century



*The boys from Newmont Pajingo*



*The boys from Ernest Henry*

Congratulations to all the Emergency Response Teams that competed. Special congratulations to the Newmont Pajingo Team for achieving top ranking in the Challenge.

For the third year in a row Ernest Henry Mines has won best "Pre-Hospital Care" section of the challenge, closely contested by Newmont Pajingo.

Both mines have utilised First Response Australia's Certificate IV Emergency Medical Technician program for the past 3 years.

Recently FRA released its newly nationally accredited program in Triage. This program formed the basis for Newmont Pajingo's strategy in the Multi Casualty Incident (MCI) event of the challenge.

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## Australasian Registry of EMTs launched

For the first time in Australia, qualified Emergency Medical Technicians will start to gain recognition for their hard earned qualifications and continuous provision of services both within and outside of their workplaces.



Ron Gui, Principal Registry Officer of the "Australasian Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians" (AREMT) developed the concept in early 2003, due to the lack recognition and the difficulty in obtaining continuing education, people like himself found after completing EMT programs.

Unlike the USA and Europe, Australia and its surrounding regions had no professional organisation for all EMTs to be registered and recognised nationally for their training. Ron followed the guidelines of the NREMT (USA) to develop the

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Australasian Registry and invited First Response Australia to join AREMT. The Registry has now gained recognition with the British Ambulance Association, Royal College of Surgeons (UK) and other EMS providers in Malaysia and Singapore. This year has seen the development of guidelines for registration and assessments for all EMT categories which closely follow those of the NREMT (USA).

For more information on how the AREMT can benefit EMTs and employers of EMTs visit :

**[www.AREMT-Australia.com](http://www.AREMT-Australia.com)**

## First Response Australia - distributors of the new Zoll AED plus

With the many brands of AEDs now available in Australia it may be hard to make the choice of which one is suitable for the needs of a particular workplace.



Common considerations for making these choices usually include ease of operation, proven capabilities, ruggedness, low initial cost, ECG capability, low maintenance costs and cost of consumables such as batteries.

First Response Australia was the first private organisation to deliver accredited defibrillation training in Australia and has sold many types of AEDs to a variety of industries. In the past we have found that the main prohibition to the deployment of AEDs in workplaces has been high initial cost and cost of replacement batteries.

For the first time all of the above considerations have been addressed in one very neat package - the Zoll AED Plus.

The recommended price for the unit is \$3900 and cheaper again when more than one unit is purchased. Other brands with similar features are well over \$5000 .

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**The unique one piece  
CPR-D Padz system  
and the economical  
lost cost batteries**

So what does the Zoll AED Plus offer differently to the rest?

FRA provides the following package:

- \* Zoll AED Plus (5 year warranty)
- \* Interactive CPR prompts and guide giving feedback on speed and depth of compressions
- \* Carry Case - includes wipes, razor, shears and resuscitation barrier device
- \* ECG configuration
- \* Paediatric configuration
- \* Passive Airway Support System
- \* CPR-D padz  
(unique one piece system- 4 year shelf life)
- \* Powered by 5 year lithium batteries - 300 shocks available (replacement batteries available over the counter for approx. \$60.00)
- \* 1.5 hours of continuous Monitoring/Defibrillation
- \* End of battery life designated by Red X (remaining shocks available =150)
- \* Patient Data Recovery System

For the first time a cost effective package is now available. Visit our web site or email for more information.

*Edited by Charles Makray - managing director*

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE LEVEL IV PROGRAMS CAIRNS**

**November 19, 2004 (8 days full-time)**

**IPSWICH**

**November 29, 2004 (8 days full-time)**

### **RECERTIFICATION PROGRAMS CAIRNS**

**November 25, 2004 (2 days full-time)**

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