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PRESS INFORMATION

Automatic External Defibrillators for Fire Crews

Professional first responders such as fire crews are in a position where they often faced with victims suffering from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). There is a growing trend especially in North America for fire crews to carry an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) in order to give immediate essential treatment to victims.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) causes the heart's normal rhythm to suddenly become chaotic. The heart can no longer pump blood effectively and the victim; collapses; stops breathing; becomes unresponsive; and has no detectable pulse. SCA can strike anyone and at anytime.

Common causes of SCA are asphyxiation, trauma, falls, electrocution and drowning, all very real scenarios to first responders such as the Fire Brigade.

SCA is an electrical problem with the heart and should not be confused with a heart attack which is a pumping problem. Sometimes a heart attack, which may not be fatal in itself, can trigger a sudden cardiac arrest.

Defibrillation is the only treatment proven to restore a normal heart rhythm. When used on a victim of SCA, the automated external defibrillator (AED) can be used to administer a lifesaving electric shock that restores the heart's rhythm to normal.

If the victim receives defibrillation within three minutes the chances of survival are 70%. Every minute that the heart is not beating lowers the odds of survival by 7%. After 10 minutes, the chances of survival are negligible. CPR can buy a little time but ultimately SCA requires a shock to restore a normal rhythm.

The Lifeline AED was developed to be simple to operate by non medical staff, so that they can give immediate life saving care without risk to the victim or the operator. Voice prompts guide the rescuer through the steps involved in saving someone's life, including calling an ambulance and performing CPR in compliance with new 2005 Resuscitation Council guidelines. The AED is self-contained with pre-connected pads and a lit status indicator. It also features an audible alarm if an internal problem is detected when performing self-tests. A computer inside the unit analyses the patient's heart rhythm and determines if a shock is required to save the victim. If a shock is required, the AED uses voice instructions to guide the user through saving the person's life. Safeguards designed into the unit means that non-medical responders can't use the AED to administer a shock if the system determines that no shock is required.

Like all of the emergency services, budgetary constraints play a large part in the procurement of new equipment. However, the Lifeline AED provides a cost-effective solution without compromising on quality. A unique feature is that the standard Lifeline AED converts into a training unit by utilising a small training pack consisting of a rechargeable training battery, battery charger, and training software. This alleviates the need to buy a stand-alone trainer unit.

In addition to the standard 5-year battery, the Lifeline AED is also available with an industry leading 7-year battery pack giving a standby life of 7 years, 300 defibrillation shocks, or 16 hours of continuous operating time including daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly self-tests.

The Lifeline AED is particularly well suited for the harsh conditions that are frequently encountered by first responders every day. Our defibrillators are rugged, low-maintenance, and extremely cost effective. From the built-in carrying handle designed to accommodate even a gloved hand, to the non-slip rubberised surfaces on the hardened lightweight case, the Lifeline is professional grade equipment you can count on at a price you can afford.

The Lifeline AED is technologically advanced enough to include all the critical features necessary to provide the most advanced treatment for sudden cardiac arrest, yet so simple and un-intimidating to use that even non-medical personnel can effectively save lives.

The Lifeline offers the following features & benefits:

- Active status indicator – shows unit status under all types of conditions
- Clear voice prompts – guide user step-by-step through the operation of the unit
- Pad connectors – visible pad connectors show the pads are connected
- Handle – roomy rubberised handle makes AED easy to carry even in gloves
- Big buttons – oversized & brightly lit 'power on' & 'shock' buttons mean even the most nervous hands will hit the mark
- Battery pack – Easy to replace battery pack available with industry leading 7 year life
- Over moulding – rubberised surfaces enhance grip & ruggedness of unit
- Progress light – give user clear visual text guidance
- Complete package – Unique case design with integrated pad storage in the back means the unit is complete without lids or additional case

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