

SAFETY ALERT



MAY 2013

FIRST AID – AUTOMATIC DEFIBRILLATORS

In light of a recent tragedy on a construction site in Sydney, where a worker lost his life due to cardiac arrest. The CFMEU reminds PCBU's of the importance of having adequate first aid equipment on site.



A registered defibrillator showing the AEDDR label

Providing an automatic defibrillator can reduce the risk of fatality from cardiac arrest and is a useful addition for workplaces where there is a risk of electrocution or where there are workers at risk of heart attack due to work and/or health conditions.

Automatic defibrillators are designed to be used by trained or untrained persons. Even an untrained passer-by, given access to an automatic defibrillator, might have helped prevent such a death.

Access to defibrillators can significantly increase survival rates for massive heart attacks away from a hospital, as the time taken for an ambulance to reach a heart attack victim might be the difference between life and death.

All defibrillators should be registered in strict conformance with the Defibrillator Guidelines.

For information about the defibrillator guidelines go to www.aeddr.com
For information about cardiac arrest go to www.cardiacarrest.org.au

DETERMINING FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

First aid requirements will vary from one workplace to the next, depending on the nature of the work, the type of hazards, the workplace size and location, as well as the number of people at the workplace. These factors must be taken into account when deciding what first aid arrangements need to be provided. PCBU's should conduct a risk assessment when deciding what the first aid requirements are on each job site, following these steps;

- identifying hazards that could result in work-related injury or illness
- assessing the type, severity and likelihood of injuries and illness
- providing the appropriate first aid equipment, facilities and training
- reviewing your first aid requirements on a regular basis or as circumstances change.

CONSULTATION

As with all matters affecting the health and safety of workers, PCBU's must consult, so far as is reasonably practicable, with workers when making decisions about what facilities are needed, including those required for administering first aid. Consultation should include; *the number, location and contents of first aid kits and other equipment; the type of first aid facilities that may be needed; first aid procedures; the number of first aiders.*

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For more information on First Aid, see the draft *Code of Practice: First Aid in The Workplace* available from Safe Work Australia or contact WorkCover NSW or the CFMEU