



What is an AED?

An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is a device, which can be attached to a person who is suffering sudden cardiac arrest. An AED is used in conjunction with CPR techniques and can be used to deliver an electrical shock to the heart.

How does an AED work?

An AED is simple to use and will talk the user through each step. They provide clear instructions and advice.

AEDs have safety features built in and won't work on someone who doesn't need a shock administered.

Why is there a need for defibrillators in RFS vehicles?

The defibrillators will have benefits for RFS service personnel and the general public.

NSW Rural Fire Service vehicles are often the first responders to incidents, especially in rural and regional areas.

Seconds matter in a cardiac arrest situation, an AED can be used quickly to assist with the treatment of patients, prior to the arrival of specialist paramedics.

How many AEDs will be distributed?

Approximately 5500 AEDs will be distributed across the NSW RFS to brigades and RFS offices across the State.

There will be also be 55 AED training machines distributed to assist with instructing members on the use of the machines.

What kind of training is there?

The AED itself provides clear voice and on-screen instructions on how to use them.

The Australian Resuscitation Council recognises that the use of AEDs by individuals without prior formal training may be life saving.

As a brigade, Tathra will be training in the use of these devices in the near future. Training DVDs are available, they are included with the AEDs at the moment, but will be stored in our library. You may borrow these at any time

What about maintenance?

The machines must be maintained and kept clean. They should be visually inspected regularly, for example, during regular vehicle checks. The units will alert you on the screen if there is an issue with the machine. The units need to be returned after use, or after five years, for maintenance.

Replacement units will be issued when this occurs.



What's in the package?

The units are contained a protective case. Instructional information is also included in the kit, along with the unit itself.

A "ready kit" is also provided, which assists in treating the patient. This includes a razor, alcohol wipe, paper towel, gloves and face shield.

How much will the machines cost?

The units are being rolled out statewide at a cost of approximately \$12 million.

Where are the AEDs located?

Cat 1: The AED is located in the LHS locker (note sticker on side of vehicle).

Cat 9: The AED is located in the locker (note sticker on side of vehicle).

Members should familiarise themselves with the location and operation of AEDs.