
Lexington Police Department

111 Maiden Lane
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6260 • 803-951-4643 Fax



Terrence Green
Chief of Police

"Building Partnerships with the Community We Serve"

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2010

(Lexington, SC) The Lexington Police Department has acquired four Phillips HeartStart Automated External Defibrillators, using funds received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program. Officers in the department have undergone training on how to use the AED's, which were implemented on August 1, 2010. Three of the AED's are assigned to the Patrol Division where officers sign the units out when they begin their tour of duty. The other AED has been placed near the training room in the department.

Chief Green believes that these devices will increase the quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Lexington. Because officers are usually on scene prior to the arrival of ambulance personnel, the AED's will enable officers to help citizens in cardiac crisis when timing is most crucial.

A press conference has been scheduled for today, August 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. The press conference will include personnel from the Lexington Police Department and the Lexington County Emergency Services. For more information about the press conference, please call Lt. Carroll Bledsoe at 359-6260.

(See Attached Facts Sheet)



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SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

What is an automated external defibrillator (AED)? It is a portable device used to administer an electric shock to the heart and restore the heart's normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest. Ventricular Fibrillation (VF), the abnormal heart rhythm that most often leads to sudden cardiac arrest, is treatable. If the heart can be shocked quickly with an AED, a normal heart rhythm may be restored.

Some facts on Sudden Cardiac Arrest:

- On an average day in the United States 1,000 adults die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), a total of 350,000 per year. SCA is the result of an arrhythmia, where the electrical pulse of the heart goes out of control, causing the heart to quiver. Doctors don't understand why this happens, but they do know that shocking the fibrillating heart is the only effective treatment for regaining a regular beat.
- The American Heart Association estimates that 20,000 to 100,000 SCA deaths could be prevented each year if defibrillation was readily available. Electrical shock restores a heartbeat and circulation, but to survive neurologically intact, rescue must be swift. (Wall Street Journal)
- Defibrillation within the first minute of sudden cardiac arrest can save the lives of up to 90% of its victims. However, with each minute of delay until defibrillation, the survival rate drops by 10%. (American Heart Association)



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