



Billingshurst Emergency Assistance Team (BEAT)

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Saturday, 10 April 2010

More life saving equipment installed in the Billingshurst area.

Two more Public Access Defibrillators have been located in the Billingshurst area by The Billingshurst Emergency Assistance Team (BEAT) in partnership with Lloyds Pharmacy and Fishers Farm Park. BEAT is the Billingshurst areas Community First Responder scheme. When ambulance control receives certain calls such as chest pains, collapse and asthma attacks at the same time as dispatching an ambulance, if a responder is on call they will be sent too.

Another area where Community Responder Schemes can play an important part in their community is with the provision of Public Access Defibrillators (PADs). When someone has a cardiac arrest, defibrillation needs to be prompt. For every minute that passes, chances of survival decrease by 14 per cent. Research shows that applying a controlled shock within five minutes of collapse provides the best possible outcome.

A Public Access Defibrillator is installed in a high profile place where trained staff, or any member of the public could access the defibrillator and provide the life saving 'shock' needed when a patient goes into cardiac arrest. The equipment is so simple to use that any member of the public could use it should a trained member of staff not be available. Ambulance call takers, the people you speak to if you have to dial 999, are aware of the placement of PAD sites and would be able to talk through the use of the equipment should it be necessary. Hopefully, defibrillators will become commonplace and as familiar as fire extinguishers in every public place.

Melanie McAlpine, General Manager at Fishers Farm Park, Wisborough Green said "BEAT have been wonderfully pro-active in placements of PADs and training of staff in the area. We are delighted to be a part of a network that can help save lives"

BEATs Chairman, Paul Berry says, "We are very pleased to have been able to set up PAD sites at Fishers Farm and Lloyds Pharmacy in Billingshurst. Both locations have a large footfall of people and are in exactly the type of areas where a PAD might prove vital. We are very grateful to the staff and management of both organisations who have been very open to the idea of having a PAD on site and receiving training in their use".

For more information about BEAT visit www.beatresponders.org or phone Paul Berry, BEATs chairman on 01403 786185.

Photos show Paul Berry of BEAT handing over the defibrillator to some of the staff who received training at Fishers Farm Park.

ENDS

Editors' Notes

BEAT

The Billingshurst Emergency Assistance Team (BEAT) started providing emergency cover in February 2006 with six volunteers. The group now has around 15 members and covers a large area; as well as Billingshurst, this includes areas such as Ifold, Barns Green, Pulborough and Slinfold.

BEAT is funded by donations from individuals, companies and local organisations. BEATs main supporter is Billingshurst Lions Club who have donated 5 Responder kits.

BEAT is trained by, monitored and dispatched by the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Members of BEAT give their time voluntarily and without payment.

www.beatresponders.org

For more information about this release, contact Paul Berry on the numbers below.

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