

NEWS RELEASE

23rd March 2011

UNDER EMARGO UNTIL 7.00AM ON FRIDAY 25TH MARCH 2011

St John Ambulance to issue a further 18 defibrillators in Jersey

St John Ambulance in Jersey are delighted to announce that following a kind donation from a local benefactor it has been able to purchase and deploy a further 18 defibrillator heart start machines in Jersey. This will bring the total in situ Island wide to 115.

“This marvellous donation continues to make Jersey one of the most heart attack aware places in Great Britain.” said Commander, Nigel Truscott. “St John Ambulance are delighted that we are now able to deploy these extra machines to all Parishes in Jersey as well as to charitable organisations.” He continued “We are aiming to achieve a goal of accessibility to a machine as past experience has shown the importance of these life saving devices being deployed in the first few minutes of a heart falling into defibrillation.”

Truscott continued. “Coverage in Jersey is improving all the time but it can still get better and our vision is to have access to a defibrillator within a couple of minutes if needed. The first minutes of an incident are the most important with survival rates falling with each minute that passes.”

The 100th machine was donated to the Jersey Scout Association. Island Commissioner, Helen Woolsey, said “This is a wonderful donation that will be located at the Jersey Scout Centre on the Five Mile Road, we are pleased to be able to support the community, giving coverage in this part of the and increase awareness of our members and visitors about the importance of defibrillators in saving lives following a heart attack.”

Chair of the Committee de Connetables, Ken Vibert, said “This wonderful donation now permits the remaining nine parishes to join the other three with defibrillators to give comfort to all parishioners that a machine is operational in every parish and I am sure each Connetable will communicate its location to all in his or her parish.”

All these extra machines in Jersey will soon be indicated following their deployment by using the *AEDLOCATOR* web site that shows on a map the exact location of the machines and when they are accessible.

Mr Truscott concluded “We have already commenced training of operatives for this distribution of machines and it marvellous that Jersey is now seen as the leader in ensuring its population have the best opportunity to survive a heart attack.”

Editors please note contact details:

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Note to Editors

- All machines are Laerdal Heartstart FRX and FR2's and at present there are hundreds of operatives Island wide
- When a heart attack occurs, for every minute that passes without a heartbeat the chances of survival diminish by 10%
- A number of charitable donations have meant that some charities have also benefited from the acquisition of a defibrillator.
- For details of this life saving device, contact St John Ambulance, Jersey on 735611
- St John Ambulance is the nation's leading first aid charity. We believe that everyone who needs it should receive first aid from those around them and that no one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders.
- We have over 40,000 volunteers who are committed to training, caring and saving lives. We're also one of the country's leading youth organisations – more than half of our members are aged under 25
- <http://www.aedlocator.org/AEDLocations.php> This website lets you identify the machine nearest to you.