

APPENDIX A

CASE STUDY

Incident No. 035883 26th November 2010

"I was Officer in Charge of the Search & Rescue Team [SRT] on the above date. We had just attended a Road Traffic Collision [RTC] in Caldy, Wirral. We were returning through Greasby when we spotted two police officers alongside a young girl who had collapsed on the pavement. I instructed the two crew members in the back of the appliance to get the medical equipment whilst myself and FF Barrett went to offer our assistance. ***I checked for pulse and breathing and there was neither.*** I began compressions and FF Barrett gave mouth to mouth resuscitation.

We applied the defibrillator [AED] and carried on working on her. I administered two shocks. The paramedics had arrived just prior to the second and the young lady was put straight into the ambulance ***where they confirmed that her heart and breathing had started again.***

It's worth noting that it was during the heavy snowfall and the ambulances were stretched to the limit. The air ambulance had to attend the RTC. We worked on the young lady, Laura (17 years old) for at least eight minutes.

Also, for your information, we were asked to take the AED up to Arrowe Park Hospital where they downloaded the data from it. The medical staff explained that it could provide a wealth of information, including the exact rhythm the heart had gone into, which is vital in making a diagnosis. The following month Laura had a pacemaker and internal defibrillator fitted.

I'm convinced that, if the only appliance within the Service to carry an AED had not just happened to be passing, then Laura would not have survived"

**Steve Gadsdon
Watch Manager
Station 12, Kensington
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