New Broward County Fire Code for AED & BCK Requirements

Top 25 Frequently Asked Questions

Always consult with your local Fire Officials for specific city code requirements and updates!

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1. **What's changed with the fire code?**

   Recent amendments to the Broward County version of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) now require **all new and existing buildings**, as defined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101: Life Safety Code (see Question 5 for more details), to have **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** and **Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs)** installed on-site.

   While this update currently applies to Broward County, similar amendments are expected to be adopted in other counties throughout Florida and potentially on a national level in the future.

2. **What is an AED?**

   An AED stands for "Automatic External Defibrillator." It is a portable medical device used to analyze a person's heart rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock to restore a normal heart rhythm in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. They are readily visible in all airports and many public buildings.

3. **What is a BCK?**

   A BCK stands for "Bleeding Control Kit." It is essentially an advanced first aid kit, specifically designed for managing bleeding in emergency situations (think mass shootings). It distinguishes itself from a standard first aid kit by including items such as durable tourniquets and specialized large wound gauze.

4. **Why were these amendments added?**

   According to the American Heart Association, more than **350,000 sudden cardiac arrests (SCA)** occur annually in the U.S., and nearly **90% of them are fatal**. Of the 10% who survive, only about **7% make a full recovery**. Having an **AED readily accessible** can significantly increase the chances of survival and improve outcomes.

   Rescue Beats founder, **Bill Amirault**, is one of the fortunate 7% who survived an SCA and made a full recovery. His personal experience inspired him to make it his life's mission to raise awareness about CPR and AEDs. As part of that mission, he set a goal to reach **1 million people** with lifesaving education and provides **free CPR and AED training** to all Rescue Beats clients—and many others in the community.

   In addition, the inclusion of **Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs)** reflects the growing need for trauma response readiness in public spaces. With the rise in mass casualty events, these kits can provide critical support for bystanders and first responders treating injuries before emergency medical services arrive.

5. **Who is affected by the new fire code amendments?**

   The new requirements apply to **all new and existing buildings** in **Broward County** that meet specific criteria outlined in the Florida Fire Prevention Code. While the rules vary

depending on the type of occupancy, here is a high-level overview of the types of facilities now required to install AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs):

- ✅ Multi-story residential buildings with **five or more floors**
- ✅ **All hotels and motels**
- ✅ **Commercial and retail spaces** over **35,000 sq. ft.**
- ✅ **Fitness centers, gyms, and indoor recreational facilities** larger than **1,500 sq. ft.**
- ✅ **Assembly occupancies** with a capacity of **100 or more people**
- ✅ **Places of worship** with a capacity of **100 or more people**
- ✅ **Office buildings/business occupancies** over **20,000 sq. ft.**
- ✅ **All dental offices** (per Florida Administrative Code 64B5-17.015)
- ✅ **All adult day care facilities**
- ✅ **All charter and private schools**
- ✅ **Assisted living facilities** (per Florida Statute § 429.021(5))
- ✅ **Ambulatory surgical centers** (per Florida Statute § 395.002(3))
- ✅ **Walk-in medical care facilities**
- ✅ **Hospitals** that provide emergency services (excluding freestanding ERs)

6. **When is the deadline for compliance?**

The **compliance deadline has already passed**—the new fire code amendments went into effect in **June 2024**. Any building that meets the criteria (see Question 5) is **required to have AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) installed**.

If a business has not yet been notified, it may be because their facility hasn't had a recent fire inspection or the requirement was overlooked. However, **inspections are ongoing**, and **violations will be issued** for non-compliance moving forward. It is strongly recommended that building owners and facility managers act now to avoid enforcement actions or potential penalties.

7. **How many AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) does my building need?**

The number of **AEDs and BCKs** required depends on several factors, including your **building size, occupancy type, and capacity**. Some facilities may only need **one AED/BCK**, while larger or more complex buildings may require multiple units. Additionally, the quantity and specific contents of BCKs may vary based on these same criteria.

If you plan to handle compliance on your own, we highly recommend reviewing the applicable fire code and consulting with your local fire officials to ensure you fully understand your specific requirements.

At **Rescue Beats**, we specialize in helping businesses navigate these new regulations. We offer **on-site and remote evaluations** to assess your needs and ensure full compliance. We also worked closely with Broward County fire officials when developing our packages—so when you purchase through us, you can be confident your equipment meets the code.

In fact, we offer a **100% compliance guarantee**:
If your building fails this portion of the fire inspection after installation, **we'll work directly with your fire officials to resolve it—at no additional cost to you.**

8. **How much do AEDs and BCKs cost?**

Costs can vary widely depending on the **reseller, equipment model, features, installation requirements, training, and package contents**. As a general guideline, you should expect to pay **at least $2,000** for a basic AED and Bleeding Control Kit (BCK) setup—plus some additional overhead costs.

Larger facilities or those with higher occupancy may require **more advanced or multiple kits**, particularly for BCKs, which scale in cost based on the required contents. To ensure you're covered for **accessories, installation, training, and maintenance**, we recommend budgeting **around $3,000 per unit**.

Options range from **refurbished AEDs** at a lower cost to **advanced 'smart' AEDs** and all-inclusive packages. With so many models and features available, the selection process can quickly become overwhelming.

That's why **Rescue Beats** offers expert guidance to help you select the right equipment based on your building's unique requirements. To simplify compliance, we've created **pre-built, fire-code ready packages** tailored to each type of occupancy defined in the code.

9. **I need to comply now, but I don't have the budget to purchase the required equipment. What are my options?**

If upfront costs are a concern, there are still flexible ways to get compliant. You may be able to **rent or finance the necessary equipment**, allowing you to spread costs over time while staying within code.

Rescue Beats offers several budget-friendly solutions:

- **Short-term equipment rentals**, with a **discounted purchase option** based on the rental period
- **24- or 36-month low-interest financing plans**
- **$1 buyout leasing options**, allowing you to own the equipment at the end of the lease for just one dollar

These programs are designed to make compliance **affordable and accessible**—without sacrificing quality or delaying your timeline. Contact us to discuss the best option for your situation.

10. **What's included in a typical AED/BCK package?**

Package contents can vary greatly depending on where you purchase them. In fact, **most kits sold online do *not* meet the specific requirements** of the updated fire code—particularly when it comes to the Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs).

At **Rescue Beats**, all of our packages are **custom-built to comply with the latest fire code regulations**, including the detailed requirements outlined in **Section F-121.3.4, 5 & 6**. Contents may vary depending on your **building type and occupancy size**, but every package includes:

- ✅ An **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**
- ✅ A **code-compliant Bleeding Control Kit (BCK)**
- ✅ A **wall-mounted cabinet** with alarm (if required)
- ✅ **Code-approved signage** for visibility and accessibility
- ✅ The appropriate number of **tourniquets, gauze, gloves, and other trauma supplies**, based on building size
- ✅ **Inspection-ready labeling** and compliance stickers

If you're unsure whether an online kit meets the requirements, we're happy to review it with you—or provide a fully compliant, worry-free package tailored to your specific occupancy type.

11. **Who is responsible for installing AEDs and BCKs?**

The responsibility for proper installation lies with the **building owner or occupant**. Equipment must be installed **in accordance with local guidelines and code requirements**, including proper placement, visibility, and accessibility.

Rescue Beats offers **professional installation services** as well as step-by-step **guidance for owners or staff** who prefer to handle it themselves.

12. **Who is responsible for maintaining AEDs and BCKs?**

Ongoing maintenance is also the responsibility of the **owner or occupant**. Both AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits must be **maintained according to manufacturer guidelines** and in compliance with fire code regulations to ensure readiness during an emergency.

To simplify this, **Rescue Beats offers several maintenance plans** and guidance to ensure your equipment stays fully operational and compliant at all times.

13. **What are the training requirements?**

As of the **April 2024 fire code revision**, formal training is **no longer required** for compliance. However, we believe **basic awareness and refresher training** are essential for effective emergency response—especially in high-traffic or high-risk environments.

That's why **Rescue Beats provides FREE awareness training classes** to all clients who purchase compliance packages from us. We are also an **authorized CPR and First Aid training center**, offering a full range of certification and advanced training options for businesses, schools, and community organizations.

14. **Can I buy and install the equipment myself (or have my maintenance team do it)? Yes—but with important caveats.**

According to the fire code, **"At the discretion of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the implementation of an AED and BCK shall occur only after written notification is made to the Fire Chief or their designee by the individual, entity, organization, or company acquiring an AED."**
This means that **prior written notification is required**, and must include specific information as outlined in the code.

Additionally, there are **strict installation requirements** related to equipment location, signage, cabinet specifications, accessibility, and visibility. Failing to follow these details could result in a failed inspection—even if the equipment itself is compliant.

Rescue Beats provides:

- **Installation planning and support**
- **Assistance with the written notification process**
- **Code-compliant equipment and cabinet setup**

When you purchase through us, you can be confident that everything is **installed properly and documented correctly**—saving you time, hassle, and potential re-inspection fees.

15. **Why should you consider Rescue Beats to help with your implementation?**

Rescue Beats has been tracking this code since early 2024 and we worked directly with a Broward Fire Marshall and local city fire inspectors to make sure that we understood every aspect of the new requirements. In fact, our first large scale implementation was done in collaboration with the Hollywood Fire Marshall and a fire inspector at **Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort**, where you will find our equipment installed throughout the facility.

We have also been trusted by Marriott, Hilton, DoubleTree, Fairfield Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Mickey Byrnes, Spanish 7th Day Adventist Church, Blue Wave Gastropub and many local Business and Condo Associations.

We are local, we understand the code, we are passionate about this (it's personal to us), we provide free training, consultation and we guarantee you will pass your next fire inspection for AEDs or we will make it right.

16. <u>What are the specific equipment requirements?</u>

Exact equipment requirements **vary based on occupancy type, building size, and use**, and are detailed in the amended fire code guidelines. Factors such as the **number of AED/BCK units**, **placement**, **signage**, and **required contents** of the Bleeding Control Kits will differ from one facility to another.

Rescue Beats can help you:

- **Assess your building's unique needs**
- **Recommend the correct equipment and placement**
- **Submit documentation to your local fire officials for pre-approval**, ensuring a smooth inspection process

Our goal is to take the complexity out of compliance and give you peace of mind that everything has been done right the first time.

17. <u>Which equipment should I purchase?</u>

With so many AED models, accessories, and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs) on the market, choosing the right combination can quickly become **technical and overwhelming**—especially when trying to meet fire code requirements.

Here are some key questions to consider when selecting your equipment:

1. **Does the equipment meet the fire code requirements** for your building type and occupancy load?
2. Would you prefer to **invest more upfront** for lower long-term costs (e.g., longer battery life, fewer replacements), or spend less now with **higher maintenance costs later**?
3. Do you want a **self-monitoring AED**, or do you have a plan to manually check and log inspections?
4. Would **multi-lingual, audible voice prompts** be helpful for your occupants or staff?
5. Do you know the difference between a **fully automatic vs. semi-automatic AED**—and which is right for your environment?

6. Does the BCK include **all required supplies in the correct quantities** for your building?

Rescue Beats takes the guesswork out of the process by offering **expert guidance and pre-configured, fire-code ready packages** tailored to your specific building or business type. We're here to make sure you're fully compliant—without the confusion.

18. Do I need to run any new electrical to support them?

No, the AEDs are battery operated and do not require any electrical power. The only installation overhead is installing the cabinet(s) and signage where required. Some advanced/smart cabinets (heated, wifi, self-monitoring) do require 120v electrical connections.

19. Do I need to keep records for AED and BCK inspections and maintenance? Yes.

While the amendment doesn't explicitly outline a formal record-keeping process, it **does require compliance with each manufacturer's maintenance recommendations**—and most manufacturers **require regular inspections with documentation**.

Beyond compliance, **maintaining records is critical for legal protection**. In the event of an emergency or liability claim, being able to show proof of routine maintenance and inspection can be crucial.

To support you, **Rescue Beats provides:**

- **Maintenance hang tags** with every AED we install
- **Optional maintenance plans** to handle inspections and documentation for you
- Guidance on setting up an **in-house inspection routine** or choosing **self-monitoring AEDs** to automate part of the process

We strongly recommend having a **clear implementation and record-keeping plan** in place—whether you manage it internally or partner with us to take care of it.

20. Do AEDs expire?

Yes, **AEDs and their components have expiration dates**, though the device itself doesn't "expire" in the traditional sense. Here's what you need to know:

- **AED batteries** typically last **4–6 years**, depending on the model
- **AED electrode pads** (the sticky pads applied to the victim) usually have a shelf life of **2–4 years**
- **Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs)** also contain items with expiration dates and require **periodic inspection and replacement**, similar to standard first aid kits

While the AED unit itself can remain functional for many years, **routine maintenance and timely replacement of consumable parts are** essential to remain compliant and ensure the device works when needed.

Rescue Beats monitors expiration timelines for all equipment we provide. We'll notify you in advance so you have time to replace any expiring components—helping you stay ready and pass inspections without stress.

21. Am I immune from civil liability if I use an AED or provide emergency aid? Yes, but with important conditions.

Florida law provides **civil liability immunity** in emergency situations involving the use of an AED or the administration of emergency care (such as CPR or First Aid). However, **immunity depends on your role**—whether you are an individual bystander, a business owner, part of a community association, or a healthcare provider.

Florida has enacted **two key statutes** that are designed to:

- **Encourage bystander intervention** during emergencies
- **Protect individuals and organizations** who render aid in good faith

These statutes help shield you from civil liability **when aid is provided responsibly and within the scope of the law**.

That said, it's essential to **understand how these laws apply to your specific situation**, especially if you're responsible for placing and maintaining AEDs or overseeing staff who may use them.

Rescue Beats can provide resources and guidance to help you better understand your responsibilities and protections under Florida law.

Scan the QR code or use the link below to read the "The Cardiac Arrest Survival Act" F.S. 768.1325 statute:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0768/Sections/0768.1325.html

Scan the QR code or use the link below to read the "Good Samaritan Act" F.S. 768.13 statute:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0768/Sections/0768.13.html

22. What happens if we use the AED or BCK in an emergency situation?

Any person who uses an AED should contact the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) by calling 9-1-1 immediately prior to or immediately upon use of the AED. The AHJ may conduct a quality assurance review after the use of an AED or BCK.

23. What else should I know about this?

- Annual fire inspections now encompass compliance with these code amendments. Comparable to fire suppression, egress, emergency lighting, and other elements, the responsible party will be required to demonstrate adherence to the codes. Failure to do so may result in the issuance of a Notice of Violation to the building owner, fines, etc.
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) kills more than 360,000 people/yr. in the US (with more than a 90% mortality rate). CPR and AEDs can drastically improve chances of survival. As mentioned above, the founder of Rescue Beats (Bill Amirault) is a SCA survivor and is dedicated to raising awareness. More on that here: Heroes reunited with Bill on the Harry Show - YouTube

24. Where can I find the actual Broward code for these requirements?

The code may be adjusted from time to time so check with your local fire officials for the latest updates.

Scan the QR code or use the link below to read the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code: *Section F-121 - Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and Bleeding Control Kit (BCK*):

https://library.municode.com/fl/broward_county_board_of_rules_and_appeals/codes/the_florida_fire_prevention_code?nodeId=BRCOLOAMFLFIPRCO_SF-121AUEXDEAEBLCOKIBC

25. Where can I find the Florida amendments that protect me from liability?

Scan the QR code or use the link below to read the "The Cardiac Arrest Survival Act" F.S. 768.1325 statute:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0768/Sections/0768.1325.html

Scan the QR code or use the link below to read the "Good Samaritan Act" F.S. 768.13 statute:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0768/Sections/0768.13.html

Please be aware that the information provided in this document represents our interpretation of the changes and an effort to address frequently asked questions. This document is not a legal resource and should not be considered a substitute for local regulations. It's essential to recognize that specific details may differ and may be subject to change. For accurate information and compliance in your area, we strongly recommend consulting with your local Fire Officials.