



New Broward County Fire Code for AED & BCK Requirements

This guide is designed to help you understand and meet current fire code requirements for AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs).

While compliance is required, these updates reflect a broader shift toward safety and emergency preparedness. Having the right equipment—and knowing how to use it—can make a life-saving difference in the critical minutes before first responders arrive.

Always consult your local Fire Officials for specific city requirements and updates.

Why This Matters

Emergencies happen before EMS arrives

Equipment alone isn't enough

Preparedness saves lives

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What's changed with the fire code?

At a high-level the [Broward County Amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code](#) ("FFPC") along with similar local ordinances, now require many new and existing buildings to install AEDs and Bleeding Control Kits (BCKs).

While this currently applies to Broward County and select cities, similar requirements are being adopted across Florida and the U.S.

These updates reflect a growing emphasis on **on-site emergency readiness**, not just regulatory compliance.

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.

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.

Why were these amendments added?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) affects over 350,000 people annually in the U.S., with a survival rate of less than 10%. Immediate access to an AED can significantly improve outcomes.

The addition of Bleeding Control Kits reflects the need for rapid response to traumatic injuries—where immediate action before EMS arrival can save lives.

These requirements are not just about compliance—they are about improving survival in real emergencies.

Rescue Beats founder, **Bill Amirault**, is one of the fortunate 7% who survived an SCA and made a full recovery. [More on his story here.](#) His personal experience inspired him to make it his life's mission to raise awareness about CPR and AEDs.

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Who is affected by the new fire code amendments?

These requirements apply to many types of buildings based on size, occupancy, and use.

At a high level, if your facility serves the public, houses residents, or employs staff—you likely have a role in emergency preparedness.

- ✓ 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)

When is the deadline for compliance?

The compliance deadline was **June 31, 2025**.

Facilities not in compliance may fail inspection and receive violations or fines. Enforcement is ongoing, so it is recommended to act as soon as possible.

How much equipment does my building need?

Requirements vary based on building size, occupancy, and layout. Some facilities require one unit, while others require multiple.

We recommend consulting the fire code or your local fire official for exact requirements.

Rescue Beats offers site evaluations to determine the correct quantity and placement—and ensure full compliance.

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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.**

How much do AEDs and BCKs cost?

Costs vary depending on equipment, installation, and package type.

As a general guideline, most facilities should budget approximately \$2,500 per unit for a compliant setup including accessories, installation, and training options.

- Full-service management programs (like our GreenLight AED™ Program), where we handle the equipment, installation, inspections, maintenance, compliance tracking, and documentation for a predictable monthly cost

The real investment is in **readiness**—the ability to respond when it matters most.

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

If upfront cost is a concern, options may include:

- **Equipment rentals** (starting at ~\$35/mo.)
- **Financing plans**
- **Lease-to-own programs** (starting at ~\$85/mo.)
- **Full-service plans – we take care of everything for a low monthly fee**

These allow you to achieve compliance—and readiness—without delaying implementation.

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

Many off-the-shelf kits do not meet fire code requirements—especially for BCKs.

A compliant package typically 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, etc**, based on building size
- ✓ **Inspection-ready labeling** and compliance stickers

Who is responsible for installing AEDs and BCKs?

The building owner or occupant is responsible for proper installation, including placement, visibility, and accessibility.

Rescue Beats provides installation services or guidance to ensure compliance.

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 fire code requirements.

To simplify this, many organizations choose a managed solution like our **GreenLight AED™ Program**, which includes:

- In-person inspections
- Compliance tracking & documentation
- Medical direction & prescription
- Ongoing maintenance & readiness

This ensures your equipment stays compliant, documented, and ready—without placing the burden on your internal team.

What are the training requirements?

While training is not always required for compliance, most cities/municipalities require certification or awareness, and it is critical for preparedness.

In an emergency, people don't rise to the occasion—they fall back on their training. Even basic awareness can significantly improve response time and outcomes.

Rescue Beats provides awareness training and full certification courses for organizations that want to go beyond minimum requirements.

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Can I buy and install the equipment myself (or have my maintenance team do it)?

Yes—but prior written notification to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is typically required.

- Installation must also meet strict requirements for placement, signage, and accessibility.
- Improper installation can result in failed inspections—even with compliant equipment.

Rescue Beats can assist with both planning and documentation.

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

Rescue Beats doesn't just help you meet code—we help you become prepared.

We combine compliance expertise with real-world emergency readiness, ensuring your organization has the right equipment, proper setup, and confidence to respond.

Our team has worked directly with fire officials and implemented large-scale deployments across hotels, commercial properties, and community organizations.

We also provide training, ongoing support, and a compliance guarantee—so you're covered both during inspections and in real-world situations.

What are the specific equipment requirements?

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**

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- **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.

Which equipment should I purchase?

Choosing the right equipment depends on compliance requirements, building needs, and long-term maintenance considerations.

Rescue Beats helps simplify this by providing pre-configured, code-compliant solutions tailored to your facility.

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.

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

Yes. Regular inspections and documentation are required by most manufacturers and recommended for compliance and liability protection.

Having a clear maintenance plan ensures your equipment is ready when needed.

How do I ensure ongoing compliance after installation?

Compliance doesn't end after installation. AEDs and BCKs require ongoing inspection, documentation, and maintenance to remain compliant and ready for use.

Some organizations manage this internally, while others use programs like Rescue Ready™ to ensure everything is handled consistently and correctly.

Do AEDs expire?

AED units last for many years, but components require replacement:

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- Batteries: 4–6 years
- Pads: 2–4 years
- BCK contents: vary

Regular inspection and replacement are essential for readiness.

Am I immune from civil liability if I use an AED or provide emergency aid?

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

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

After an AED is used, the device must be serviced before being placed back into operation. This typically includes downloading clinical event data, replacing electrode pads, and in some cases replacing the battery.

During this time, a replacement AED must be put into service to remain compliant. Many organizations use AED management programs, such as Rescue Ready™, to handle this process—including providing a temporary loaner device, coordinating maintenance, and ensuring continuous readiness.

What else should I know about this?

- Annual fire inspections now include AED and BCK compliance, similar to other life-safety systems. Failure to comply may result in violations, fines, or enforcement actions.
- Many organizations are moving toward ongoing program management to ensure they remain compliant and prepared year-round—not just at the time of inspection.

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

What Should You Do Next?

If you're unsure whether your facility is compliant—or want to make sure it's done right the first time—here are your next steps:

1. Review your building requirements
2. Schedule a compliance evaluation
3. Implement a plan for ongoing readiness

Rescue Beats can guide you through each step—from initial assessment to long-term program management.

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.

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