FIELD SAFETY GEAR AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL USE

EPIRBs and PLBs (distress Radio Beacons x 4)
EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) or PLBs (Personal Locating Beacon) are essential for remote field work where you will have limited telephone coverage OR when you need immediate help in the event of an emergency. They are tracking transmitters which aid in the detection and location of boats, aircraft, and people in distress.

If you are working in remote areas where the distance to the nearest hospital or immediate help is lengthy, if you are doing marine research or if you know where you are going has no telephone reception, taking the EPIRB would be a good safety option.

There are procedures that need to be explained before you borrow an EPIRB/PLB.

Oxygen Resuscitation Equipment
This kit should only be taken out on ‘Marine’ research trips involving snorkelling and/or scuba diving, boat or shore based research. It is designed specifically for marine based research therefore should remain available for these kinds of trips.
**Defibrillator (AED)**
Defibrillators are used for cardiac arrest where a therapeutic dose of electrical energy is delivered to the affected heart. Access to an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) within those first minutes could dramatically increase the chances of survival. Please be aware that the defibrillator was designed so that anyone can use it. The Defibrillator is automated and the voice coach guides you through every step of CPR.

The School has two Defibrillators – one permanently located in the tea room and another stored in the mail room 35.G18 for field use (or emergency use when it is not in the field). You will need to take it off the mount on the wall, put it in the black ‘Zoll’ Pelican case stored in the cupboard below and ensure you have filled out the user register on the cupboard.

Please book it ahead of time if you know you will be taking it into the field.

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**Remote and Basic First Aid Kits**
These kits contain all the items in a general first aid kit. The ONE remote first aid kit includes additional items for use in remote/isolated situations including safety blankets, flares, instant ice packs, sam splint, resuscitation masks, trauma shears, whistle, etc.

If you are going to a remote or isolated region please take the Remote First Aid Kit. This kit is also useful for snorkelling trips as the SCUBA DIVING first aid kit is now permanently located in the Research Boat MAARRA.

The Kits are located in the cupboard below the Defibrillator in 35.G18. Please ensure you book and sign the item out using the same register (for Defibrillator above) on the cupboard door.

REMOTE x1  BASIC x2  Very Basic x1
GPS (Global Positioning System)
Biology has several GPSs available for use in the field. These are very popular items and it is recommended that you book in advance.

Satellite Phone
A satellite telephone, satellite phone, or sat phone is a type of mobile phone that connects to orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial cell sites. They provide similar functionality to terrestrial mobile telephones; voice, short messaging service and low-bandwidth internet access are supported through most systems. A satellite phone only requires a clear line of sight to the sky. The advantage of a satellite phone is that it can complete calls from anywhere and can be used for emergency situations (not requiring an EPIRB) or to check in with safety contacts at home when there is no reception for mobile phones. A satellite phone can operate in the middle of the Sahara desert, at the top of Mount Everest, or from a clearing deep within a South African jungle.

These need to be booked and a Technical Officer can take you through the instructions.

Shark Shields
A Shark Shield is a portable electronic device that emits an electromagnetic field and is used by scuba divers, spearfishing, ocean kayak fishing and surfers to repel sharks. When the shark comes into proximity of the electrical waveform (a few meters in diameter) it experiences uncontrollable muscular spasms causing it to flee the area. Biological Sciences have 2 of these and they are available for use.