



Event Guidance Note 8

First Aid and Medical Cover

The Event Safety Guide (HSG195) specifies a First Aider as "A First Aider" is a person who holds a current certificate of first-aid competency issued by three voluntary aid societies (or certain other bodies or organisations); St John Ambulance, British Red Cross Society or St Andrew's Ambulance Association.

Any first aider for events should have prior training or experience in providing first aid at crowd events.

NB the completion of a "Health and Safety at Work" or a four day "First Aid at Work" course does not necessarily qualify a person as competent to administer first aid to members of the public

The guidance is not specific about what "certain other bodies or organisations" means.

The guidance specifies that First Aiders, Ambulance and Medical Workers should:

- Be at least 16 years old and not over 65;
- Have no other duties or responsibilities;
- Have Identification;
- Have Protective Clothing;
- Have relevant experience or knowledge of the requirements for first aid at major public events;
- Be physically and psychologically equipped to carry out the assigned roles;
- Also, first aiders under 18 Years old must not work unsupervised.

Proper provision of First Aid at events is an important issue and should be considered carefully. It is not about having "a mate who does a bit of first aid with at box of plasters"; not is it necessarily about having a company first aider appointed under the Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981. Any first aider providing services to members of the general public should be competent and comfortable to do so.

Public First Aid is different to workplace provision and any person undertaking it should **not** have another function. Whilst Stewards and Security personnel can be first aid trained if they are engaged for that function they should not be expected to deliver first aid as it will take them away from there other duties.

First Aiders should be equipped to do the job and have access to facility to support their work. They need to be able to consider patient confidentiality and dignity.

The best advice for organisers is to approach a recognised body that can provide such services.

To help you with planning First Aid for your event please complete **Safety Advisory Group Medical Checklist** and submit with your event plan. Form included in the forms list.