

Quick thinking may have saved life

CENTRAL LEADER AUG 17, 2011

By KELSEY FLETCHER

Quick thinking by a Mt Eden physio may have saved the life of one of the two men electrocuted last week while they were erecting flagpoles on Normanby Ave.

Function Physio principal physio Andy McGregor was compiling patient notes when power was cut to his office and around 200 other buildings on Friday.

"I went to reception where people were racing out with first aid kits and I thought this looks like more than a fire drill," Mr McGregor says.

Mr McGregor was given the office defibrillator by the office manager as he ran out the door – a purchase the company had only made three months earlier in case of an emergency at the MedStrength gym.

Mr McGregor ran to the aid of two men, aged 41 and 50, who had finished installing flagpoles at the Bic offices when it appeared the crane from the back of their truck fell, connecting with live powerlines.

An 11,000 voltage

shock exploded down the crane and through the truck, throwing the two men into the air.

Mr McGregor ran on to the street where people were performing CPR on a man in the middle of the road who had been electrocuted.

"People were panicking and a woman was doing chest compressions while a man was giving him mouth to mouth," he says.

Mr McGregor says he unpacked the defibrillator and placed the pads on the man's chest.

"The man was purple because he wasn't getting any oxygen, he was arresting.

"The machine told us we had to shock him so we did and he vomited then we put him into recovery position just as the ambulances and police arrived," Mr McGregor says.

He was at the man's side within three minutes and says without the defibrillator the man could have died.

"There was a massive surge of adrenaline at the time, it was a bit surreal," Mr McGregor says.

"But it feels good to



Survival instinct: Mt Eden physio Andy McGregor was one of the first at the scene at an electrocution incident last week. His actions with a portable defibrillator may have saved a life.

Photo: JASON OXENHAM

know I helped him, I just wanted him to survive. I just started to think about his family because

I have two kids."

Both victims, who are employed by Kumeu-based company Yacht-

spur, as in a serious but stable condition with burns at Auckland's Middlemore Hospital.

The Department of Labour has launched an investigation into the incident.