



PSDiver Monthly 88

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**OSHA
Standards
& PSD
Teams:
*Are We
Really
Exempt?***

What's Iimportant Now?

**Herniated Disc Disease
And Diving**

**FOUND ON THE WEB
NEWS & EVENTS
DIVING MEDICINE
CONTINUING ED.**

Greetings.

A while back I read an article that was about self initiative and prioritizing your life. I did not save the article and cannot credit it properly. At the time, I did not know how much impact it had on me. Some things occurred this last month that really set me off. It has taken a lot for me to set aside my anger and not use this space to vent. After going off the deep end and struggling with this editorial, that article came to mind. The author had a philosophy that I wish I had been smart enough to come up with. It was a simple word. WIN.

WIN according to the author stands for “**What’s Important Now**”. I like that. I like that a lot.

WIN. What’s important now? Taken as a simplistic method of prioritizing a task, a set of problems or even an emergency response, the concept reminds you to focus on the immediate and most important issue at hand. Instead of being overwhelmed by a daunting task, a problem or even an emergency we break it down into single steps and focus past the unimportant stuff. If you run out of air, it does not matter who did not fill your cylinder all the way or even if you remembered to check your gauge before you started your dive. Your most important thing NOW is your next breath of air.

Let’s apply WIN to our teams. It is Fall. The season is changing and it is getting colder. Warm water divers are gearing down for the winter and cold water divers are preparing for ice.

What’s important now? Has your gear been cleaned and stored properly? Is your ice gear ready for response? Have you had a team meeting to discuss changes, problems or issues that would delay or inhibit your team’s capabilities? There is a lot we should be doing to prepare for the coming change in weather.

Most municipalities started a new fiscal year in October. For most of us that means new budget year. New budget year usually means we can place a few orders, catch up on repairs, maintenance issues and sometimes even update some gear. It also means that we may have the opportunity to pre schedule training dates for the coming year. Have you done that yet?

We can use WIN on a more personal level within our team. Consider how it could apply to you personally if you became entangled underwater on a zero vis dive. What’s important now? We can use WIN as a reminder to move step by step to control panic. WIN? AIR! Got it .. WIN? Control my breathing ... WIN? Assess my situation. WIN? Let topside know what my problem is....

The same holds true even for a simple dive call. If you get into a bind and move too quickly, steps can be forgotten and when that happens, the momentum of the dive operation slows down or stops until corrections can be made. Before, or if that happens stop and ask yourself, “what’s important now?” We make necessary corrections step by step and using WIN we can bypass those things that get in the way.

I am not too much on the touchy feely aspect of *personal sharing*. But I have to admit that since I started applying this concept it has allowed me to reduce some stressful situations into easily manageable issues simply by reminding myself that some of those stressors are just **NOT important now**. I may not have done a good job of relaying the WIN concept but I hope you get and try the idea.

Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly
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Special To PSDiver



OSHA Standards and PSD Teams: Are We Really Exempt?

By Michael S. Glenn

Reprint from ERDI September News 2011

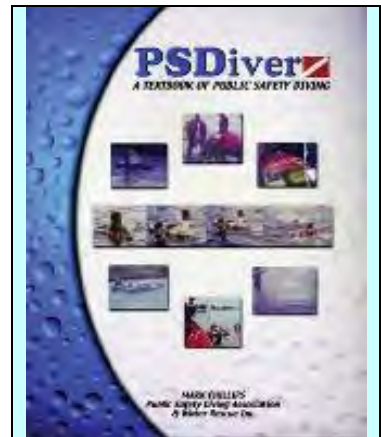
Public Safety diving is an amalgam of several different and varying forms of diving which joins the best of recreational courses, scientific principles and commercial standards. However, one question which is often addressed is this: **do public safety divers fall under the standards and guidelines as laid out under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)?** Simply stated, YES public safety and emergency response divers are governed under several different guidelines as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). However, some provisions must be in place first.

OSHA is the governing body for **"workplace safety"**. Workplace safety is outlined as a relationship between employee and employer. As such, public safety and emergency dive units working directly under the control of an employer would be considered as being under OSHA's control while dive team units and members from a private entity where there is no employee or employer

relationship would not be initially considered under the control of OSHA. In addition, some states are not considered to be governed under OSHA jurisdictions as they have opted to create their own work place safety guidelines. These states are called **State Plan States**. State Plan States develop and enforce their own set of workplace safety guidelines. However, these standards must meet the same minimum standards that OSHA addresses or exceed them in order to be approved and institutionalized.

Public safety diving does not conform to one set platform for diving. As such, it is not traditionally governed under several standards in existence.

In addition, the typical standard most divers reference when discussing OSHA adherence seems to be OSHA 29 CFR 1910.400 or Subpart T "Commercial Diving Standards". While most readily recognize that within the first three paragraphs the standard simply states that this standard does not apply to public safety divers, this statement is somewhat misleading. Public safety divers operating in certain aspects may not be held to OSHA standards in whole. However, when conducting dives in



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waters where the current flow is over one knot (1kt. / 1.15mph) they are held to being tethered, as outlined in this standard. Further, when conducting salvage operations, where lift bags or lifting equipment is deployed, public safety divers are no longer working in a realm of public safety diving but in commercial salvage and again are held to the commercial standards as outlined in the OSHA guidelines.

While most discuss the commercial diving standards, OSHA outlines several other standards that everyone, including land based members, must adhere to. For example, OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1926.106, *Working over or near water: Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment*, clearly outlines that everyone working from boat or land in close proximity of the water must wear a life vest. This single standard addresses anyone standing or working near the water's edge from tenders, surface support, decontamination teams, medical assistance, etc.

In 29 CFR 1910, *Respiratory Protection: Personal Protective Equipment*, the standard states: "In the control of those occupational diseases caused by breathing air contaminated with harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors, the primary objective shall be to prevent atmospheric contamination. This shall be accomplished as far as feasible by accepted engineering control measures (for example, enclosure or confinement of

the operation, general and local ventilation, and substitution of less toxic materials). When effective engineering controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted, appropriate respirators shall be used pursuant to this section." (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 (a) (1)) Further, the standard outlines that the respirator must be fit tested to the wearer. Several agencies, across the nation have interpreted that this standard applies to the use of their full face masks utilized in potentially contaminated water environments.

Another guideline laid out under OSHA that emergency response divers fall under includes 29 CFR 1910.1030, *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard*; this guideline sets out the minimum requirements for protection, exposure mitigation and reporting practices for anyone who can potentially come in contact with blood or biological pathogenic materials, as a diver will when performing human remains recoveries.

OSHA standards cover a vast majority of topics and details and one is hard pressed to find some aspect of the diving profession that is not covered under at least one guideline. However, what is important to remember is that OSHA's guidelines are not enacted to harm or hamper an

organization but to help protect them and their employees from unnecessary risk, injury or harm. This holds true for public safety dive teams. Regardless of your state's



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position, as an OSHA controlled state or a State Plan State with its own occupational safety organization, **every diver must meet some form of OSHA compliance in some form of its operations.** In addition, civilian and non-affiliated public safety teams may find themselves operating under the control of a government or public body and would again find themselves needing to comply. It is the divers, dive team leaders and governing agency's responsibility and duty to know their respective state's position and guidelines. Knowing the guidelines and implementing their practice routinely will assist in the overall safety and professionalism of the team.

For further information on OSHA guidelines, please contact your local states department of occupational safety and health, or go to: <http://www.osha.gov/>. For research into specific codes, guidelines or topics , [Click HERE](#)



About the author

Michael began his law enforcement career in July, 1990 and has served approximately 20 years as a law enforcement officer with several law enforcement agencies in North Carolina. Michael has enjoyed working briefly as a patrol officer but has devoted most of his career to criminal investigations and crime scene investigations. Michael assumed the role of criminal investigator and crime scene investigator while employed with the Tabor City Police Department and maintained that position until 1998. He left Tabor City Police Department as a Detective Lieutenant and Assistant Chief of Police to join the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. Michael was employed by Columbus County as a criminal investigator and crime scene investigator. Michael was initially assigned as the domestic violence investigator and later transferred to general crimes, fraud and cyber crimes. In addition, Michael was one of two detectives working on

administrative investigations. Michael designed and established the department's forensics processing lab and built the department's working CSI program. In addition, Michael was instrumental in establishing the sheriff's office underwater crime scene unit and acted as the dive team supervisor throughout his employment with the department. While employed with the sheriff's office, Michael was instrumental in aiding in the building and equipping of the department's first evidence processing facility and in establishing the basic protocols for evidence processing and submission.

Michael joined the North Carolina Justice Academy staff in February of 2007. In addition to his Academy duties, he also serves as a reserve police officer within Columbus County. Michael's primary areas of concentration are in forensic technology courses including: basic and advanced crime scene investigation, fingerprint classification and comparison, chemical development of latent evidence, implementation strategies for forensic light source technologies deployment and incident reconstruction. Michael also serves as an instructor in underwater crime scene investigation and public safety diving. Michael is a certified scuba instructor and has authored several unique specialty programs in the field for public safety divers. In addition, Michael has been an invitational member on the US Navy's Contaminated Water Diving Technical Working Group, as well as having published articles in H2Ops magazine and Law Enforcement Technologies on diving topics. Currently Michael has 3 training manuals in print and one on-line diving course for testifying in court for public safety divers.

Michael has been awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Sheriff's Training and Standards Division, as well as, completed the North Carolina Justice Academy's Public Safety Diver's Certificate Program. To learn how ERDI can benefit you and your Team please visit: <http://www.tdisdi.com/index.php?did=2&site=4>

NEWS

Boy of 'Impossible' Wash. Sea Rescue Now in Recovery

<http://www.emsworld.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=18123>
8/20/2011 Sean Robinson The News Tribune

To hear the sound of hope, listen to a boy crack his knuckles.

Charles "Dale" Ostrander bends his fingers, one by one, waiting for each sweet pop. His parents cringe and smile. The 12-year-old boy's face curls with pleasure, like a rock guitarist slinging a nasty riff.

He cracks his wrist, too -- bending his hand to make the sound so he can make the face again.

"See, that little stuff," Chad Ostrander, the boy's father, said Friday. "That sets me off."

Dale is the miracle boy, rescued from the cold Pacific Ocean on Aug. 5, after more than 15 minutes underwater. During a visit to the Washington coast with a church group from Spanaway, a rip tide pulled him under.

A rescue crew pulled him out and brought him back. A photographer caught the moment: the limp body of the boy, carried from the sea amid a spray of silver.

He'd been under for more than 15 minutes. There was no hope; it was too long, impossible -- but Dale came back.

He's in recovery now, expected to stay several more weeks at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup. Before long, he'll be able to go home.


"He was dead, and now he's not," said Kirsten Ostrander, Dale's mother.

Grace Ndungu, the patient care assistant who takes Dale through his daily



AP Photo/The News Tribune, Dean J. Koepfler

Dale Ostrander, center, stands up from his wheelchair with help from his father, Chad, left, and certified nursing assistant Grace Ndunsu on Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, at Good Samaritan Hospital's rehabilitation unit in Puyallup, Wash



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regimen of physical therapy, sees progress. Three hours a day, each day another step. "Every day, it's a little bit more," Kirsten says.

The story of the miracle boy circled the globe. Cards and letters festoon the walls of the hospital room. They come from all over, from as far as Israel. ("Shalom, Dale," the yellow note says.)

"You don't realize how many good people there are in the world," Chad says.

Dale's body and brain were hurt. Both are coming back. He's written his name. He's climbed stairs, ridden a stationary bicycle. He's built things with plastic bricks. He's mastered the hospital remote control. He knows which TV channel has the cartoons. His right hand -- the stronger one -- is gaining dexterity. The left is coming along.

Each parent worries differently. Kirsten watches. Chad talks.

"I don't want to expect too much," he says. "But I want to hope for full recovery."



AP Photo/Damian Mulinax/Chinook Observer

Surf rescue swimmer Doug Knutzen carries Dale Ostrander to the shore of the Cranberry Rd. beach Friday Aug. 5, 2011, in Long Beach, Wash.

They worry whether Dale is still there, whether he can come all the way back. Each day brings a new sign. The boy remembers his dog, Peanut. He remembers his four sisters -- two older, two younger. He was annoyed enough one recent day to tell the littlest one to go away.

"Yeah, that's Dale," his father says.

Chad remembers the brainstorm nights, a week back. That was bad. Dale's fever climbed to 106.

Dale has spoken a little, but not much today. Those

moments are still rare. It is not easy.

"To him, it's very obvious what he's saying," Kirsten says. "To us, it's kind of hard."

Chad's eyes are blue. Kirsten's are green. Dale's eyes are a blend, a greenish-gray. They stare with meaning. Sometimes it's as good as a command -- like telling someone to step away from the TV, so he can watch "The Amazing World of Gumball."

At other times, his purpose is less clear, and he has to move. He leans forward, then back, inching the wheelchair forward in little jumps. Then come the questions. Does he want the remote? No. Does he want his shoes off? No.

Does he want to stand?

Kirsten hadn't wanted him to perform, to dance for the cameras. But Dale bobs back and forth in his chair, a look of need on his face. By now, after two weeks, both parents know the signals.

"Do you want to stand up?" Chad asks.

The boy does. With Ndungu's help, Chad folds back the foot pedals. Ndungu unties the seat strap.

"Push with your hands," Chad says.

The boy pushes, rises, stands on his own, his father's hand under one elbow.

He walks a few steps, teetering a little, but not much, and turns to his mother. He leans down, wraps his arms around her, his head against her shoulder.

"My son," Kirsten whispers. "My love."

Sean Robinson: 253-597-8486 sean.robinson@
thenewstribune.com

Man, 27, dies after being pulled from under Casino Pier in Seaside Heights

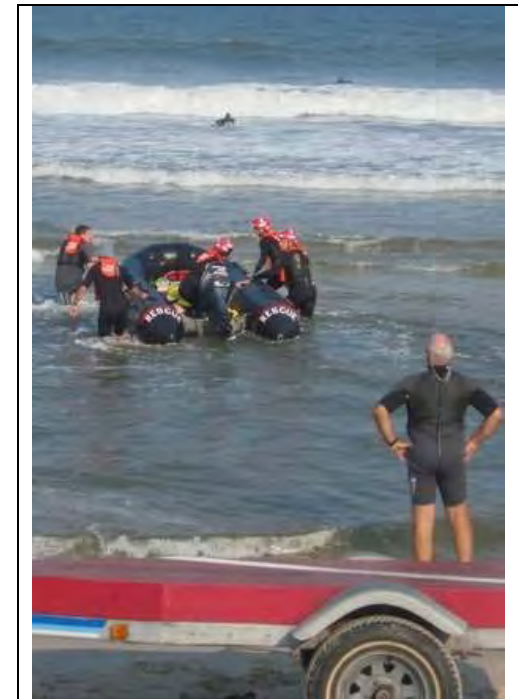
<http://www.app.com/article/20110914/NJNEWS/309140078/Man-27-dies-after-being-pulled-from-under-Casino-Pier-Seaside-Heights?odyssey=nav|head>

Sep. 14, 2011 Stephanie Loder

SEASIDE HEIGHTS —

A 27-year-old man died Wednesday despite rescue efforts by police officers and fire department divers who pulled him from the ocean under Casino Pier. The man, identified only as an Egyptian, was pulled from the water at Grant Avenue after police got a call at 3:18 p.m., according to Police Chief Thomas Boyd.

The man was given CPR and taken to Community Medical Center in Toms River where a heartbeat was determined. However, he was pronounced dead at 5:37 p.m.,



Members of the Seaside Heights Fire Department's Water Rescue work at the scene of a rescue attempt Wednesday on the beach near the Casino Pier. The swimmer later died at a hospital. Courtesy of Patricia C. Meredith

Boyd said.

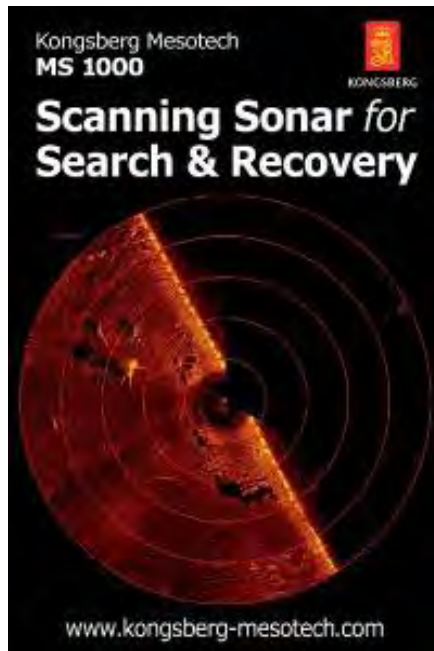
Boyd said the rip currents were very strong because of storms offshore and police had been receiving numerous calls during the week about swimmers in distress. There have been no lifeguards on duty since the end of Labor Day weekend, police said.

"The beach is a dangerous playground," Boyd said.

The man had been on the beach with friends and was waist-deep in water when he was pulled under the pier by the strong current, the chief said.

"His friends saw him go under," Boyd said. Boyd said the man was in the water with a woman and she tried to rescue him. "She tried to get him but she couldn't because she would have been pulled under herself," he said.

He said the woman managed to get out of the water before the strong current pulled her under too. "He went in the water at Grant Avenue and we found him on the north side of the pier," the chief said.



He said 10 dive team members from Seaside Park and this community responded along with local firefighters and firefighters from Ocean Beach and Lavellette.

The incident is being investigated by detectives Steve Korman and Elijah Bryant, and the Ocean County Prosecutor's office.

The incident is not the first in Seaside in recent months. Police said 9-year-old Sara Salib of Mine Hill drowned July 27 while swimming at another borough motel pool at the Skyview Manor Motel on Dupont Avenue.

Also, local police rescued a 4-year old boy who fell into a motel pool on Aug. 12. The incident happened at the Hershey Motel at 1415 Boulevard. The child, whom police did not identify, survived the incident. He said the child's parents had left him with a relative, and the relative had "looked away for a moment" when the child went into the pool.

SMART applies police concepts to underwater searches

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/SMART-applies-police-concepts-to-underwater-2171496.php
September 15, 2011 By Roy Bragg rbragg@express-news.net

TARTZVILLE — When cops need help searching underwater, they call the SMART divers. Even with a drought lowering Canyon Lake's levels all summer, and

despite knowing generally where to look, it's not that easy to find a sunken car.

There's garbage, such as the sailboat — mast included — that's lying on its side at the end of Boat Ramp 6. There are underwater trees. There are boulders. And then there's the thick layer of silt that acts as camouflage in the murky water.

That was the problem facing the San Marcos Area Recovery Team during a training exercise on a recent morning. Ninety minutes into the dive, [Russell Cain](#) and [Matt Simkin](#) hadn't been able to locate the car.

The dive team, mainly off-duty firefighters and police officers volunteering their time, is the organization called when cops require assistance finding bodies or evidence underwater.

Formed to help small law enforcement agencies, the group fills a need that well-meaning recreational and underwater divers — even with hundreds of hours of underwater experience — can't provide.

What distinguishes the SMART divers, says founder Dan Misiaszek, is that they are trained public safety personnel who approach problems with specific techniques.

In this case, divers are going back and forth in relation to a fixed point on shore.

They're pulling a flotation device so the topside crew knows where they are at all times, and using a rope affixed to shore to define their search field.

"Keep doing the windshield pattern," Misiaszek yells to the divers after they surface. "Every time you hit the sides, I'll pull the rope in six feet or so."

After about 2 1/2 hours, Simkin and Cain surface with good news. They've found a late-'70s muscle car, covered in silt, about 100 feet offshore in 20 feet of water. It takes two tow trucks and several snapped cables, but the 1979 brown

Trans Am — likely a stolen car — finally is pulled to the boat ramp.



Matt Simkin (right) and other members of the San Marcos Area Recovery Team examine a car that they recovered during a training exercise at Canyon Lake. The team was formed more than 20 years ago to help small law enforcement agencies with underwater searches. Photo: Billy Calzada/gcalzada@express-news.net / gcalzada@express-news.net

Most of SMART's work doesn't end this well. The lion's share of their dives this year have been in Canyon Lake, where eight people have drowned since Jan. 1.

Misiaszek, a former San Marcos police officer and a longtime diver, formed the group after he was asked to join a hastily organized team of local divers looking for a drowning victim in 1988.

"They had no organization, they had no search pattern," he says of that experience. "It wasn't a team. It was a bunch of potatoes in boiling water."

He saw the need for a disciplined team that would work together and apply investigative technique to searches.

Misiaszek started the team later that year and fine-tuned its techniques as it grew. SMART became a nonprofit organization in 1998 and a unit of the [South Hays Fire Department](#), which covers the lake's north shore, in 2004.

The team has 18 members, from San Marcos, south Austin, Seguin and communities immediately around the lake.

Though most SMART work takes place at Canyon Lake, the group works all over Texas. Area lawmen speak highly of the group's professionalism and dedication.

"My hat's off to them," says Castroville Police Chief [Lee McVay](#), who called the team earlier in the summer to recover a body from the Medina River. "It was dark. They came out in a couple of hours. They're real scientific, and they narrowed it down to a specific area."

"An average diver couldn't do what they do," said Comal County Sheriff's Detective Sgt. [Tommy Ward](#). "They're professional and well-trained. They know what needs to be done in collection of evidence and in recovery of items. They document what they find. They're the first link in the chain of custody if it becomes a crime scene."

SMART divers, says team member [Don White](#), know that a drowning victim will almost always be found in a sitting position, as if reading in a chair, at the bottom of a lake

. When a diver finds a body curled up in a ball, or spread out, or in any other positions, Misiaszek says, foul play is possible. Then it becomes a crime scene.

That's why he prefers to have public safety personnel on his team. With their on-the-job training and experience, they can keep their cool when confronted with the unusual or extraordinary.

Almost as important, Misiaszek says, is the work that's done on the shore.

Wife [Kathy Misiaszek](#), a San Marcos



police officer, runs the "topside team," which interviews witnesses before the first diver hits the water.

"It's emotionally draining," she says of working with witnesses, many times relatives or spouses. "They're fighting against all odds. They know the body's there, but they're always holding out hope that the person somehow floated away and survived."

Typically, she says, traumatized witnesses blame themselves for not helping. That impacts their memory of the victim's last location.

"They always put the victim out farther than they actually were," she says. "Because if they were close, they think, they could have saved them."

Once an area is narrowed down, game wardens and sheriff's deputies with side-mounted sonar scour the area for anomalies. Each one is marked with a float and SMART searches each spot. This can take days.

With a deadly summer behind them, SMART's goal is to be better prepared for next summer. To



do that, the group's major focus is raising funds to purchase a \$35,000 boat-mounted high-tech digital sonar.

A device like that, Misiasek says, will provide a nearly photographic image of a body. It will speed up the recovery of remains.

"It's primarily to speed up closure for the family," White says. "I've seen people standing on the shore on the lake, waiting. It's heartbreaking. It really is."



Water supply shutdown for 3 Mass. towns

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/south/12005372577758/water-supply-shutdown-for-3-mass-towns/>

9/15-2011 [VIDEO ON SITE](#)

HINGHAM, Mass. -- Authorities shutdown a water source that supplies water to three Massachusetts towns on Wednesday.

Accord Pond serves Hingham, Hull and a portion of Cohasset. It was shutdown after a resident reported seeing a man throw something into the water.

The company that takes water from the pond insists that the water is fine, but as a precaution the company shutdown service from that pond. Police continue to investigate a report of someone throwing something in the water.

"What was observed by the witness was that the man had something in his hand that he threw into the water," said Harry Hibbard, the Vice President of the Aquarian Water Company. "My water...people are telling me that that's nowhere near enough to contaminate a water supply with any known poison. In fact, it would take a lot, lot more than that for it to be a concern."

Officials said the incident was also more than 1,000 feet from the intake valve, far enough to dilute anything thrown in. But, the company still tested the water once and will test it again. The results of the first test showed there was no problem.

Police divers looked for anything that could have



been thrown into the water, but found nothing. On shore, investigators found a paper with foreign writing that a water official said is common to Ethiopia. Water officials said investigators also found a prayer card from a Greek Orthodox Church. Police said they turned the card over to the FBI and are waiting on a translation.

"We're hoping that possibly someone could see this and then contact us and just offer to what the activity was they were doing. If it turns out to be not criminal, then certainly we can notify everybody," said Sgt. Steven Dearth of the Hingham Police Department.

The water from the pond is offline until further notice. The company said it only supplies 25 percent of the water to the area. The towns will get their water from other places.

Baxter County deputies arrest third suspect in rash of business burglaries in north Arkansas

<http://www.kspr.com/sns-ap-ar--saferecovered-norforklake.0.7389788.story>

September 22, 2011 By Associated Press

MOUNTAIN HOME, Ark. (AP) — A third 18-year-old has been arrested in a rash of 15 commercial burglaries in north Arkansas, including one in which a stolen safe was dumped in Lake Norfork.

Little Rock television station KTHV reports that 18-year-old Frederick B. Purcell of Salem was arrested in connection with the thefts. He's being held in the Baxter

County Jail on \$55,000 bond and has a Sept. 29 court appearance. Two 18-year-olds from Gassville were arrested Monday.

Eleven burglaries were in Mountain Home or elsewhere in Baxter County. Four others occurred in Fulton Count.

The owner of the business where the large safe was stolen says it contained no more than \$20 in coins. Divers pulled the safe out of the lake Tuesday.



Fire Department Dive Rescue Team Receives Advanced SCUBA Instruction

<http://lowersouthampton.patch.com/articles/fire-department-dive-rescue-team-receives-advanced-scuba-instruction>

September 23, 2011 By [Nicole Jenet](#)

The Lower Southampton Fire Department's Dive Rescue Team received advanced SCUBA instruction September 10



The members of the [Lower Southampton Fire Department](#) Dive Rescue Team received advanced SCUBA

instruction on September 10. The members of the team are all certified divers and water response technicians with advance training in various specialties such as swiftwater rescue, ice training, vehicle recovery, and boating operations to name a few.

According to Lower Southampton Fire Department President Dan Walsh, the LSFD team is one of only three fire departments in Bucks County that performs dive rescue. The others are Point Pleasant Fire Company North of Doylestown and the Haycock Fire Company situated outside of Quakertown.

The LSFD team responds wherever needed, however, the majority of their dispatches are South of Doylestown,

according to Walsh. In the past, they have also assisted the Philadelphia Police Department and New Jersey State Police in special operations.

The exercises consisted of both classroom and water sessions at Lake Luxembourg in Middletown Township. The training utilized real-life scenarios faced by emergency personnel when responding to water emergencies. Training was conducted by Dive Rescue International which provides instruction for military, police and fire departments around the world.

According to Walsh, Steve Salach, the instructor from Dive Rescue International, split the divers from LSF D into two groups; The first group acted as park goers who witnessed two swimmers submerge, then disappear. The second group's role was to locate and retrieve the lost swimmers. Group one placed mannequins representing the victims in approximately 15 feet of chocolate-colored water roughly 50 feet from shore. Upon arrival, group two began interviewing witnesses, while the divers geared up in dry suits and SCUBA gear.



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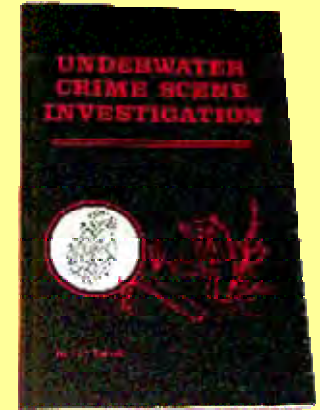
In order to add realism to the scenario, one witness became hostile and refused to assist, then another witness ran into the water pretending to be the grieving mother of the victims.

The team needed to deal with Dive Rescue Training these situations as well as determine the location of the victims by gathering and sifting through the information to decide where to deploy the divers. Techniques such as triangulation and grid searches were utilized during the search.

These techniques paid off; each team recovered the mannequins in less than thirty minutes. According to Walsh, this is significant because time is of the essence when responding to a water incident. Victims submerged for less than an hour have a chance of being successfully resuscitated, therefore; it is critical that the team accurately locates, recovers and quickly begins CPR.

Unlike recreational diving, rescue applications often occur in harsh conditions such as stormy weather, cold dark

“Underwater Crime Scene Investigation” By Eric Tackett



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waters filled with debris, and excited bystanders and family. The Divers also wear unique gear designed for not only harsh weather, but also hazardous materials such as highly contaminated waterways. Each diver wears a hazardous material resistant dry suit and full-face mask with the ability to connect to the shore via a cable used to both direct, control, and communicate with the swimmer.



The need to act quickly in order to save a life coupled with the complexity of the dive gear requires countless hours of training and drills like this one.

Community says goodbye to a hero

http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_1d18e1f9-d0a8-5c39-8539-e21617bd6ddd.html

September 25, 2011

Friends and family said a final farewell to Deputy Bryan P. Gross of Douglas, Wyoming on Saturday at The Cleft of the Rock Church in Sanford. His funeral service was held in Douglas, Wyoming on August 6, 2011. Law

enforcement units from Richland Township in St. Helen, West Branch, Midland, Roscommon and the Saginaw Chippewa Police Tribe were in attendance to pay their respects.

Gross was raised in Gladwin, graduated from Gladwin High School in 2000, and earned his associate's degree in mechanics from Kirtland Community College in St. Helen, Michigan. Before finding his passion in law enforcement he worked in a variety of local positions in Michigan. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and working with his hands. He loved children and was a beloved uncle to all his nieces and nephews and children of his friends.

His Wyoming story started with his good friends, Ross Allen and Luke Metz. They

were relocating to Wyoming and their car broke down on the way. "They called Bryan back home and he got the part and drove it out to them," his father recounted.

Bryan decided to stay awhile and began working as a heavy equipment operator in the world's second largest open pit mine. He later returned to Michigan, but hadn't found his niche. In a conversation with his dad, Mr. Gross recounted, "You always wanted to be a



police officer - why don't you just go ahead and do it?" He said, "Bryan thought about his passion and decided to return to Wyoming. His two friends, Allen and Metz continued to encourage him to come back. He had a garage sale and left. "

There he entered the three month police academy training and was hired by the Converse County, Douglas Police Department when he graduated. His assignment there was as the canine officer and with his black lab, conducted several successful drug raids. After a period of time, he transferred to the Sheriff's Department there. He had been raising a German shepherd as a personal pet. Since he had to leave his black lab behind, he received permission from the Sheriff's Dept. to train and certify his German shepherd, Gus, who was his partner, team mate and faithful friend.

On July 28, Bryan was just five minutes from the end of his shift when he received a rescue call. A young woman was in the water. Two other rescuers attempted to pull her to safety, but were physically spent. Bryan's father recounted, "Bryan didn't think twice about the rescue. He just ripped off his shirt, threw off his body armor and jumped in. He had a heart for children and young people."



Gross swam the river to her location and began the rescue. Getting her to safety, rescuers noticed that Bryan had not surfaced.

His body was located one and a half miles downriver nearly four days later. His wife, Amy, mother, Cindy, and sister, Brina, remained by the river side the entire time, calling his name and hoping for a response. Blackhawk helicopter pilots searched the river banks for 25 miles each way and were saddened when they had to report to Gross, that they hadn't "completed their mission." His recovery was in weather that was daily over 102 degrees and in a river that hadn't seen water that high since 1901. According to Bryan's father, "The water was so swift it often ripped the goggles from the heads of the divers." A bridge over the river near where Bryan went in was lined with hand drawn signs. One sign was of special significance. It read, "You help my dad in the river. My dad jump in the river. Thank you for helping my dad and the girl." This tribute was from a child of one of the rescuers.

His friend Tony Walters called Bryan "the epitome of a hero, a warrior and an incredibly wonderful person. He treated life like an F-14 Tomcat."

Another close friend, Ken Walters,



recounted Bryan's wife saying she wanted his comments to "ring true" and not seem rehearsed to which he replied, "I'm not a speaker, so I just spoke from my heart." He said Bryan was "needed for a higher calling." Walters said, "I was angry, sad, and lost but found comfort in

Joshua 1:9 - Be strong of a good courage. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." He remembered warmly a trip Bryan made back to Michigan to encourage Ken's younger brother, Dominic Walters, who was

scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan soon.

Another Walters brother, Nick, said, "Bryan was born to be a cop - always sticking up for the kids. He'd do it (the rescue) again to save the girl if it came up again." Bryan's uncle Tim Gross, called Bryan, "A shining example of what a deputy should be. His dedication was unquestionable. He was cut from a different cloth and a man to be reckoned with."

His father, Phillip, had given Bryan a card for his billfold as a reminder of his

commitment. It read: "The best test of a man is not when he plays the role that he wants for himself, but when he plays the role that destiny has for him." (Vaclav Havel) His father reminded every parent there to "say I love you to your children, because you never know when it will be the last. I'm so glad my last words to Bryan were, 'I love you.'"

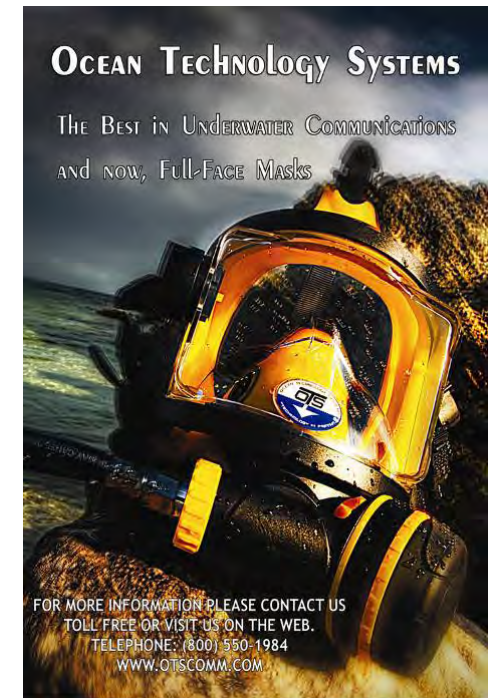
On Sept. 14, 2011, the Medal of Valor was presented to Bryan's wife, Amy, by the Governor of the State of Wyoming at Cheyenne.

As the Flag Ceremony proceeded, the final call was given. "Central 13-7? Central 13-7? Central 13-7 is out of service. Rest in peace, sir. Rest in peace."

Two firemen drown while looking for a body in Mahi

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-25/vadodara/30200183_1_check-dam-firemen-vfb

Sep 25, 2011 Tags: [Vadodara Fire Brigade](#)



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VADODARA, INDIA: Two personnel of Vadodara Fire Brigade (VFB) died after the boat they were using got trapped in a vortex near the check dam on river Mahi off Sindhrot in the city on Saturday morning. The duo drowned while two others on the boat with them managed to swim to safety.

The incident took place at around 10 am when firemen and divers of VFB went to Sindhrot check dam to fish out a body that was spotted there on Friday evening. The current was strong in the river and the water level was high forcing the fire officials to abandon the operation.

"The river and darkness had forced us to abandon the operation. We resumed work in the morning and went inside the river in a rubber boat," said Nilesh Rathod, a fireman who was in the team along with Rajesh Kahar, Vijay Parmar and Sarfuddin Mullah. Kahar and Parmar lost their lives in the incident.

Body pulled from Manitoba's Red River thought to be boy who fell through ice

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/breakingnews/body-pulled-from-red-river-thought-to-be-little-boy-who-fell-through-ice-130579483.html>

09/26/2011 By: Chinta Puxley, The Canadian Press

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WINNIPEG - Police believe they may be one step closer to bringing little Nathaniel Thorassie home.

Divers pulled a body from the Red River Sunday afternoon that is thought to be the six-year-old Winnipeg boy who fell into the water last year.

Police have not identified the remains, but say clues suggest the body could be that of Nathaniel.

"There is some indication that we might be dealing with a child," Const. Jason Michalysen said Monday.

"However, we're not able to confirm that. There is a lot of speculation with regards to who this may be and we're hopeful. We're hopeful for the reason that we want to bring closure to the family."

Nathaniel was playing Dec. 4 on the icy Red River with his 10-year-old brother when he fell into the dark, frigid water. The older boy was rescued by a passerby, but police and volunteer divers searched in vain for two months for his sibling in treacherous conditions.



Police have pulled partial remains from a site about seven kilometres from where Nathaniel fell in. An autopsy is

pending and officers are waiting for the results before they can confirm the identity, Michalysheh said.

"There is a lot of information" to suggest this is Nathaniel's body, but police want to be 100 per cent sure, he added.

"We're always very careful given the sensitive nature of what we're dealing with."

Facing temperatures of -30 C, divers went below a metre of ice into fast-moving, muddy water to search for the boy's body.

Police divers described the operation as "black water diving" because the poor visibility made it seem like divers were working with their eyes closed.

As divers searched, family and friends held several quiet ceremonies in the snow by the water's edge. Some beat drums while others gave offerings of tobacco. An eagle was spotted in the area, giving the Thorassie family hope Nathaniel was still nearby.

Michalysheh couldn't say when the autopsy would be concluded.



"When you are dealing with a young child, so many people can relate," Michalysheh said.

"When anyone loses a child, the toll that takes on anyone either directly or indirectly involved, it's very emotional for everybody. This closure, although it's for the family members, I think it's going to bring closure to a lot of members directly involved."

Police divers explore river near Montreal for body of girl last seen in 1999

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/police-divers-explore-river-near-montreal-body-girl-155156565.html>

28 Sep, 2011 By Pierre Saint-Arnaud, The Canadian Press

TERREBONNE, Que. - A twist in a famous cold case had police divers exploring a river near Montreal on Wednesday for the body of a girl who went missing 12 years ago.

They were searching for Julie Surprenant, while other officers combed the surrounding land near the Mille-Iles River.

To most Montrealers, Surprenant was a smiling, curly-haired 16-year-old in a high-school graduation photo that was splashed on countless missing-person's posters.

To Michel Surprenant, she was the daughter who never arrived home one night in November 1999.

He stood by the shore Wednesday, watching and waiting. He held out hope there might finally be some closure.

"They might find something," Surprenant said.

"They might not find something. So I'm keeping some detachment, just in case there's nothing. "But for Julie's sake, I really hope they find something."

Surprenant went missing after she got off a bus near her house, in Terrebonne, northeast of Montreal.

Quebec provincial police said they have received fresh tips since last January — but aren't willing to reveal their source.

The cold case took a dramatic turn earlier this year. In January, a health-care worker emerged to say that a convicted sex-offender revealed before dying that he dumped her body in a river. The man, Richard Bouillon, a neighbour, was already the prime suspect in the case. He allegedly made the confession while incarcerated and on his death bed with cancer.

The 52-year-old died in custody while serving a six-and-half year sentence for rape, molestation, sexual assault and drug-trafficking. After being told the story, the medical worker apparently waited almost five years before going public. She finally shared it with a well-known Quebec crime reporter earlier this year. It's a story that Surprenant's father struggled to accept.

"It was a shock when I heard the news because I wasn't expecting it and because there's a level of credibility to it," he told The Canadian Press in January. "For the time being, I'm holding back a little."

The father said he didn't understand why it would take so long to go public with the supposed confession of the longtime suspect.

On Wednesday, while standing near the river, Surprenant expressed hope his daughter might rest in peace but, after 12 years of heartbreak, said he was still holding back. "Is it difficult? After 12 years, we've learned to live with this," he



Police officers scour the banks of the Mile-Îles River near Terrebonne, Que., for new evidence in the 12-year-old missing persons case of Julie Surprenant Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Provincial police said they are acting on new information in the case of Julie Surprenant, who was 16 years old when she disappeared in 1999, after a nurse at a Laval hospital told a reporter that a man dying of cancer confessed five years ago to Surprenant's murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz

said. "I just believe this (closure) would be a positive thing, for Julie."

Police suggested the chances of a breakthrough were high. Sgt. Benoit Richard said the river search was no mere long shot.

"If our diving specialists consider it's worth the effort to conduct such an exhaustive search of the Mille-Iles River, it's because they consider that there are chances we might recover information that will help resolve this crime."

Witness says divers told to put some items back into river

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/161135>

29 September 2011 - Tan Yi Liang

SHAH ALAM (Malaysia): A Cheras police forensic laboratory officer told the High Court today that he had directed police divers to put a knife, a keris and an iron bar back into Sungai Panchau.

ACP Hussein Omar Khan, who resumed his testimony in the Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya murder trial, admitted that he told the divers to take only a watch from the river in the Banting area.

Hussein agreed with defence counsel

Manjeet Singh Dhillon that he was standing on a bridge looking down on the divers and that he made an instantaneous decision to throw these items away. He admitted that from the 5-metre distance, he was unable to see fingerprints, DNA or bloodstains on the knife, iron bar or keris.

Hussein said he was asked to focus on the watch by Bukit Aman Chief Inspector N. Govindan, adding that Govindan, who was also present then, did not ask him to throw the other items back. Hussein said he made the decision on his own.

Asked about the washing of objects found in a forensic search, Hussein agreed that washing an object could contaminate it. He agreed with Manjeet that washing could also remove something essential from it.

Hussein, who was being cross-examined, said that objects recovered in a search of Sungai Panchau in the Banting area were not recovered with what was attached to them as the objects were washed.

However, he disagreed that important evidence was removed from the items recovered from the river on Sept 15, 2010.

Hussein, who first took the stand yesterday, is not the first officer to have admitted to washing evidence that was recovered in the process of



forensics searches.

On Tuesday, Cheras Police Forensic Laboratory Chemistry Department head Supt Soo Mee Tong testified that he washed bone fragments found on Ladang Gadong during a Sept 14, 2010 search in a pond on the farm, saying it was logical to do this so the items could be identified as bones.

To further questions, Hussein agreed that the detection of blood in soil samples taken from Ladang Gadong with the hemocult sensa test could have come from blood in cow dung leeching into the soil.

Hussein had testified on Wednesday that all 55 samples taken from Ladang Gadong on Oct 9 and Oct 10, 2010 tested positive when the hemocult sensa test was performed.

Ladang Gadong is where former lawyer N. Pathmanaban and farmhands T. Thilayagan, R. Khatavarayan and R. Matan allegedly murdered Sosilawati and her three companions – CIMB Bank officer Noorhisham Mohamad, 38, lawyer Ahmad Kamil Abdul Karim, 32, and her driver, Kamaruddin Shamsuddin, 44 - between 8.30 and 9.45pm on Aug 30 last year.

To questions from defence counsel Amer Hamzah Arshad, Hussein agreed cross-contamination between items could not be

excluded as the divers had handled them without gloves and had packed the items together. He also agreed that DNA could have been transferred to the recovered objects which were handled without gloves.

The hearing continues before Judge Datuk Akhtar Tahir.

More: [Sosilawati trial: Soil samples did not contain blood, court told](#)

State finds no violations found in diver's illness

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/10/01/1847100/pierce-county-no-violations-found.html>

10/01/11 Stacey Mulick, staff writer THE NEWS TRIBUNE

A state investigation of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department found no health or safety violations after a dive team member fell ill after two days of working to raise a sunken patrol boat in July.

State investigation of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department found no health or safety violations after a dive team member fell ill after two days of working to raise a sunken patrol boat in July.

No citations were issued or penalties assessed against the Sheriff's Department, which oversees the Pierce County Metro Dive Team, after a state Department of Labor & Industries' investigation in September.



The team comprises officers from Tacoma police and the Sheriff's Department.

The dive team member – a police sergeant – became ill while his unit helped with the salvage of the patrol boat Reliance after it sank July 18 at the Narrows Marina.

The sergeant worked two days on the operation, then complained he wasn't feeling well and was lightheaded. He was hospitalized for observation. Tests at the hospital showed nothing wrong, the department reported at the time.

The state investigation looked into whether any health or safety violations led to the sergeant's illness. An investigator checked the dive team's equipment and reviewed its policies and procedures for diving operations.

No issues were found.

Similar stories:

- [Investigation into dive team illness finds no health or safety violations](#)
- [TACOMA: Dive team member sick after boat raising](#)

Bascom adds water rescue team

http://www.advertiser-tribune.com/page/content_detail/id/540783/Bascom-adds-water-rescue-team.html?nav=5005

October 3, 2011 Erika Platt-Handru - Staff Writer

After seeing a need for a water rescue team in Seneca County, the Bascom Fire Department decided to start one. The group was led by Jim Nagle, a former member

of the Coast Guard and current captain of the department, and Bascom Fire Chief Harry Miller. The need was obvious after the drowning of a 2-year-old boy in New Riegel in July, said Nagle, vice president of the Seneca County Water Rescue Team. "New Riegel didn't have a boat, divers or anyone trained in diver rescue," he said. Nagle said Miller suggested starting something and asked him to help put together a rapid response team for water incidents. Anytime there is an emergency call involving water, the team responds, Nagle said.

Several ponds are in Seneca County and vehicles often get stuck on flooded roadways, making the team more of a necessity. "It was needed for a long time and we decided to take the bull by the horns and do it," he said.

The team includes about 25 members from fire departments throughout the county, and each department brings a variety of water rescue equipment to each call. "Each department brings a little bit to the table, every department has a few different things," Nagle said.

For example, the Bascom Fire Department has ice water suits and two boats available for calls. Several divers are on the team, and they bring personal gear, Nagle said.

The team has had one training session and it plans to continue training with surrounding counties as it grows.

Nagle said the team also is working with Seneca County Emergency Management Agency Director Dan Stahl and the radio communication group to come up with a

separate radio tone for water rescuers. "It's growing, it's obviously in its infancy right now, but we are definitely growing," he said.

Baby's body found in stream

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2011/10/03/baby-s-body-found-in-stream-115875-23462935/>

3/10/2011 Steve White, Daily Mirror

The body of a baby girl has been found in a stream. Police believe the partially-decomposed tot – believed to be newborn or just weeks old – may have been in the water for several days.

There were injuries to her body but a post mortem could not pinpoint the exact cause of death. Further tests are to be carried out.

Det Supt Neil Essen said: "Although I cannot rule out foul play I now believe there is a vulnerable young mother out there who has left her baby. If that is the case I would appeal directly to her to get in touch with police."

The grim find was made by a dog walker on private land by Spen Brook in Kirkham, Lancs, on Saturday. Yesterday, a white forensics tent had been erected at the scene and police divers searched the stream.

The girl is described as white and was in a brown fleece top with a cartoon logo of a dog, bought from Asda. Two towels were also found.

SPONSOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

El Dorado Sheriff's Dept. Locate Missing Diver



On July 24, 2011, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office received information from a deep diver that while diving in Lake Tahoe near Rubicon Point he located a deceased diver in a rock crevice. The deceased diver was approximately 250-270 feet below the lake surface. Based on the reported depth a remote operated vehicle (ROV) was deployed. The Sheriff's Office, through a grant, had purchased the ROV two years ago for circumstances like these. The diver had been missing for 17 years.

Read the news reports

[Rocklin & Roseville Today Story - 5Aug2011](#)

[Sign On San Diego Story - 11Aug2011](#)



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Deep-Sea Fish In Deep Trouble

<http://www.ocean-news.com/newsletter/1260-deep-sea-fish-in-deep-trouble>

September 13, 2011



Scientists find nearly all deep-sea fisheries unsustainable, call for stopping unsustainable fisheries and government subsidies that support them.

A team of leading marine scientists from around the world is recommending an end to most commercial fishing in the deep sea, the Earth's largest ecosystem. Instead, they recommend fishing in more productive waters nearer to consumers.

In a comprehensive analysis published online this week in the journal *Marine Policy*, marine ecologists, fisheries biologists, economists, mathematicians and international policy experts show that, with rare exceptions, deep-sea fisheries are unsustainable. The "Sustainability of deep-sea fisheries" study, funded mainly by the Lenfest Ocean Program, comes just before the UN decides whether to continue allowing deep-sea fishing in international waters, which the UN calls "high seas."

Life is mostly sparse in the oceans' cold depths, far from the sunlight that fuels photosynthesis. Food is scarce and life processes happen at a slower pace than near the sea



surface. Some deep-sea fishes live more than a century; some deep-sea corals can live more than 4,000 years.

When bottom trawlers rip life from the depths, animals adapted to life in deep-sea time can't repopulate on human time scales. Powerful fishing technologies are overwhelming them.

"The deep sea is the world's worst place to catch fish" says marine ecologist Dr. Elliott Norse, the study's lead author and President of the Marine Conservation Institute in Bellevue, Washington USA. "Deep-sea fishes are especially vulnerable because they can't repopulate quickly after being overfished."

The deep sea provides less than 1% of the world's seafood. But fishing there, especially bottom trawling,

causes profound, lasting damage to fishes and life on the seafloor, such as deep-sea corals, these experts say.

Since the 1970s, when coastal fisheries were overexploited, commercial fishing fleets have moved further offshore and into deeper waters. Some now fish more than a mile deep.

“Because these fish grow slowly and live a long time, they can only sustain a very low rate of fishing,” says author Dr. Selina Heppell, a marine fisheries ecologist at Oregon State University. “On the high seas, it is impossible to control or even monitor the amount of fishing that is occurring. The effects on local populations can be devastating.”

The authors document the collapse of many deep-sea fishes around the world, including sharks and orange roughy. Other commercially caught deep-sea fishes include grenadiers (rattails) and blue ling.

“Fifty years ago no one ate orange roughy,” said author Dr. Daniel Pauly, a fisheries biologist with the University of British Columbia (UBC). “In fact, it used to be called slimehead, indicating no one ever thought we would eat it. But as we’ve overfished our coastal species, that changed and so did the name.”

Orange roughy take 30 years to reach sexual maturity and can live 125 years. Compared with most coastal fishes, they live in slow-motion. Unfortunately for them and the deep-sea corals they live among, they can no longer hide from industrial fishing.

“Fishing for orange roughy started in New Zealand and grew rapidly through the 1980s and 1990s. However, most of the fisheries were overexploited, and catch levels have either been dramatically reduced or the fisheries closed all together,” says author Dr. Malcolm Clark, a New Zealand-based fisheries biologist. “The same pattern has been repeated in Australia, Namibia, the SW Indian Ocean, Chile and Ireland. It demonstrates how vulnerable deep-sea fish species can be to overfishing and potential stock collapse.”

There are very few exceptions to unsustainable deep-sea fisheries around the world. One is the Azores fishery for black scabbardfish. There the Portuguese government has banned bottom trawling, which overfished black scabbardfish elsewhere. Azores fish are caught sustainably with hook and line gear from small boats. In most deep sea-fisheries, however, trawlers fish outside of nations’ 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones, outside of effective government control.

“Deep-sea fisheries can be sustainable only where the fish population grows quickly and fisheries are small-scale and use gear that don’t destroy fish habitat,” said Dr. Norse. “With slow-growing fish, there’s economic incentive to kill them all and reinvest the money elsewhere to get a higher return-on-investment. Killing off life in the deep sea one place after another isn’t good for our oceans or economies. Boom-and-bust fisheries are more like mining than fishing,” Dr. Norse said.

The lawlessness of the high seas adds to overfishing in the deep. So do nations' fisheries subsidies.

High seas trawlers receive some \$162 million each year in government handouts, which amounts to 25% the value of the fleet's catch, according to Dr. Rashid Sumaila, an author and fisheries economist at UBC.

The authors of this Marine Policy paper say that the best policy would be to end economically wasteful deep-sea fisheries, redirect subsidies to help displaced fishermen and rebuild fish populations in productive waters closer to ports and markets, places far more conducive to sustainable fisheries.

"Instead of overfishing the Earth's biggest but most vulnerable ecosystem, nations should recover fish populations and fish in more productive coastal waters," says Dr. Norse. "Deep-sea fishes are in deep trouble almost everywhere we look. Governments shouldn't be wasting taxpayers' money by keeping unsustainable fisheries afloat."

About the Marine Conservation Institute

The Marine Conservation Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing protection for the oceans' most important places. We work with scientists, government officials, businesses and conservation organizations around the world to fashion sustainable solutions compatible with healthy, living oceans.

Find Marine Conservation Institute online at www.Marine-Conservation.org

FOUND ON THE WEB

When Your Life Insurance Policy Won't Pay

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2011/10/04/when-your-life-insurance-policy-wont-pay/>

October 04, 2011 By [Jay MacDonald](#)

Where have all the life insurance exclusions gone?

Not so long ago, it was commonplace for a life insurance policy to exclude coverage for such risks as acts of war, military service, aviation, dangerous pastimes such as scuba diving and mountain climbing, and even public health perils such as HIV. If your death was caused by an excluded act, the insurer was under no obligation to pay your beneficiaries.

But the industry trend away from outright exclusion has given consumers new options and more confidence the premiums they pay today won't be in vain. "We're in the business of insuring people, not rejecting them," says Chris Graham, chief life insurance underwriter for The Hartford. "The fewer exclusions that you can have in a policy, the better off you are from a consumer's standpoint."

Graham explains there are two types of exclusions. There's an outright exclusion written into the life insurance policy that applies to everyone, and there's an exclusion option underwriters can use at their discretion if they don't like the risk or lack the data history to price it appropriately.

"We have that available, but it is not very common for us to use it because people don't like life insurance where some events are excluded," Graham says. "Today, you're more likely to pay what is called a flat extra, an added dollar amount per thousand of coverage, for the risky activity."

One Exclusion That Won't go Away

James Miles, consulting staff fellow for the Society of Actuaries, says a life insurance policy typically contains only one outright exclusion: the suicide clause.

"Depending on the state, it will be either a one-year or two-year suicide clause. If you commit suicide within the first year or two years of the contract, the beneficiary would receive the premiums back but not the death benefit," he says.

Unlike property and casualty insurance, life insurance has no standard form, so policy terms, prices and exclusions vary widely by company. What standards do exist have usually been imposed by state regulators, and thus vary state to state.

Billy Hester, a broker and agent for Shelter Insurance in Oxford, Miss., says exclusions began to disappear as life insurance became more competitive. "Pricewise, life insurance changed in 2000, the reason being that people live longer. Now, when we rate somebody, it's out to age 120, where it used to be to age 100," he says. "After 2000, life insurance became less expensive than it was before."

A Changing Definition of Risk

The definition of risky behavior also has changed. Aviation, for example, was once a common exclusion that is now traditionally priced by most insurers.

"Flying in a plane today is certainly much, much safer than it was 30 years ago because of navigational equipment, plane construction, pilot training, weather radar, all of that," Miles says. "Now the exclusion is there for a pilot with very little experience or a very old private pilot, somebody in their 90s, who is flying a plane. A private pilot who is middle-aged and experienced is not going to have trouble getting life insurance."

Exclusions for acts of war and serving in the military began to disappear following the [Vietnam War](#). "You might still find them in a contract today, but it would definitely be the minority," Miles says.

Graham maintains that's a reflection of the changing nature of war and our support for service members today. "You don't have the catastrophic risks you had in the first or [second world war](#)," he says. "And the military is viewed differently today. I think there is a sense of patriotism in some of that thinking."

Likewise, dangerous pastimes tend to be priced today rather than excluded, according to Hester. "It depends on how much you do," he says. "If you're just doing it once a month or something, it's underwritten individually."

But Graham says that could hinge on the state where you live. "Not all states allow you to use exclusion riders for

avocations," he says. "Aviation (exclusion) is generally allowed in all states, but avocations like mountain climbing or scuba diving are treated differently."

Exclusion for HIV is Extinct

The HIV exclusion, once commonplace, is virtually extinct today.

"In the early 1980s, it was viewed as a pandemic and there was just no way to stop it," says Miles. "Today, HIV status would be looked at like other chronic illnesses a person might have. They might pay more for their life insurance, but they wouldn't be totally excluded from getting coverage."

Just as insurers once felt obligated to exclude these risks from their insured pool, Miles says new risks may prompt new exclusions in the future, whether for potential epidemics such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and bird flu or risky new ventures such as commercial space flight.

"Part of it is just the unknown: We don't really have enough data to really quantify the risk and therefore the cost of that," he says. "An insurance company would say, 'We don't know enough. That seems like a risky activity just on the face of it, so the right thing to do is not to cover it until we get enough data and a comfort level with it to think about what the premium should be.'"

Bottom line: Fewer exclusions make it easier to purchase a life insurance policy, but watch out for the flat extras if you have dangerous pastimes.

FOUND ON THE WEB

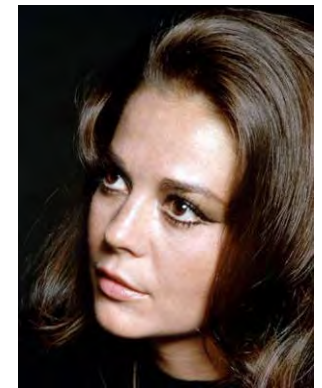
Natalie Wood Autopsy Shocker, Exclusive

http://www.canyon-news.com/artman2/publish/National_News_1182/Natalie_Wood_Autopsy_Shocker_Exclusive.php

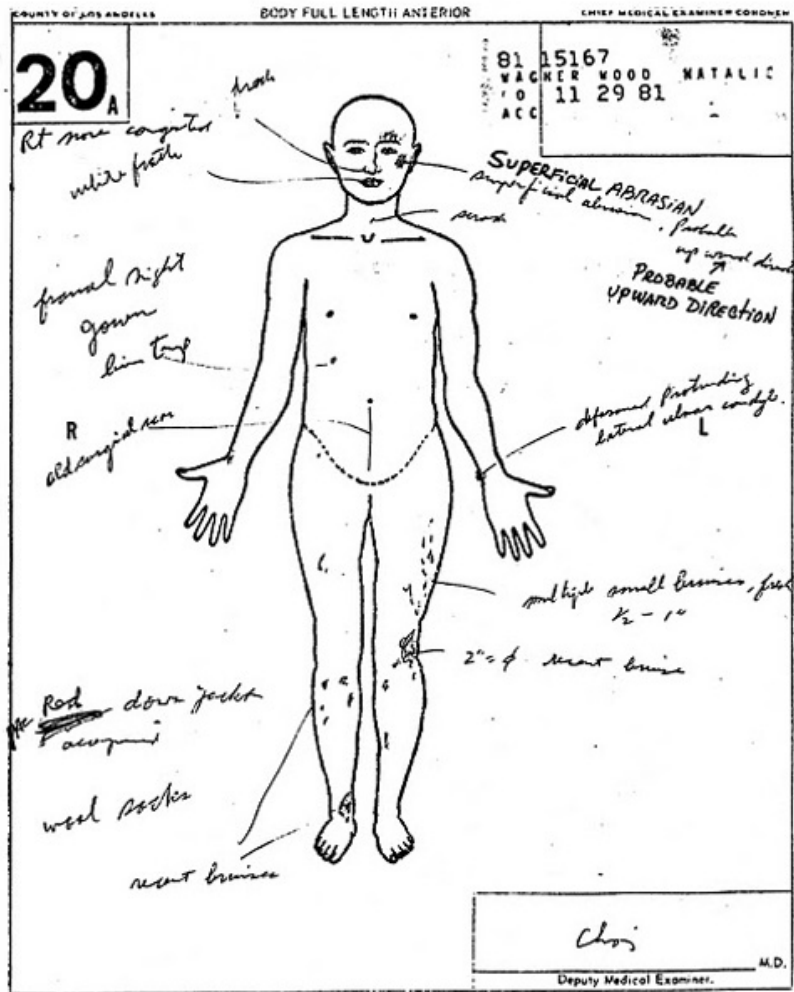
Posted by Tommy Garrett on Oct 3, 2011

BEVERLY HILLS—Last week Canyon News spoke exclusively with Roger, Smith, who was the Supervising Rescue Boat Captain for Isthmus, Catalina Island, which was involved with the recovery of Natalie Wood's body on November 29, 1981. Smith told Canyon News that he did not see any bruises on Wood's body, and stated that no one else saw them either.

Although Roger Smith's account certainly was very revealing, when discussing how the lack of an investigation was decided upon early on in the case, Splendour yacht captain and longtime Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner friend, Dennis Davern expressed his concerns over the facts and evidence being given to the public about the case. "I cannot speak for anyone else's account, only my own, Tommy. However, I stated to you and previously about the bruises I saw on Natalie's body, and the first thing that came to my mind was the violent



**Natalie Wood,
Unforgettable In
Life And Death**



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Exclusive Autopsy Sketch By LA Coroner (Frontal)

argument I overheard in the master stateroom the night before Natalie went missing," said Davern.

"When I was led to Natalie, I saw her coat across her body. I didn't know if she was found wearing it or if it was found near her. Later I found out she was wearing her coat. Before the man who was standing near her body showed me her face, I noticed her exposed arm. She had bruises on her arms. I saw several," Dennis Davern said. "I looked at her from head to toe and saw bruises near her ankles. The rest of her body was covered, including with her coat. When I saw her face, there was a large scrape on her cheek. I will never forget that moment. Her face looked at peace, but I cried because I knew she suffered."

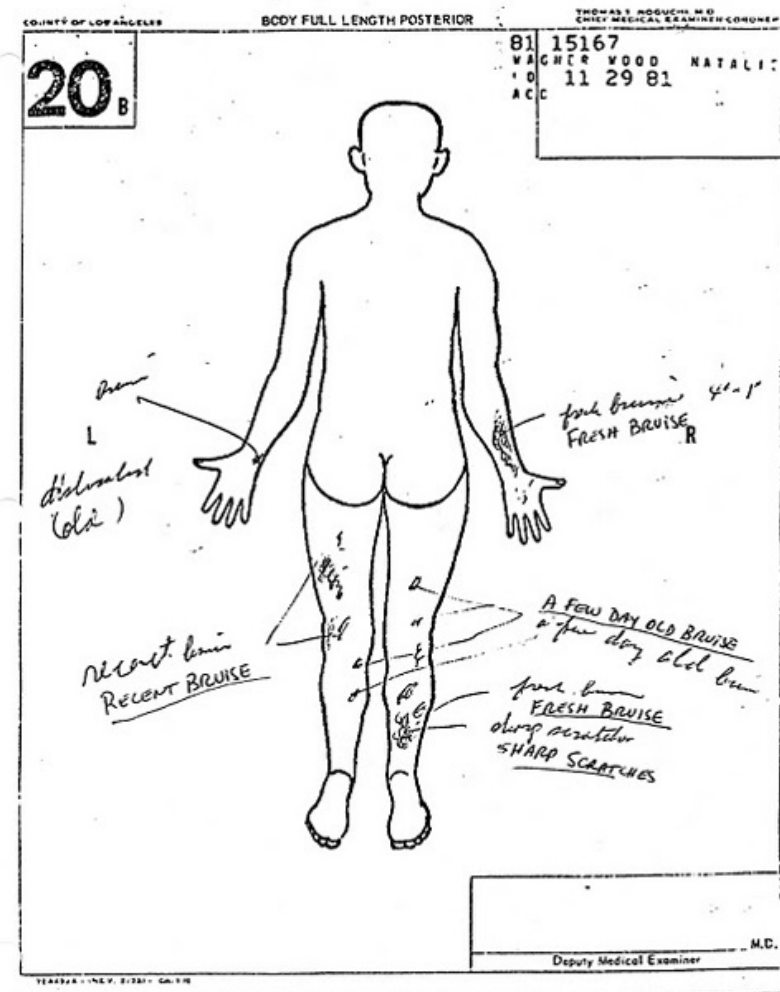
Davern spoke exclusively with Canyon News today in response to an interview Roger Smith gave to me on Tuesday, September 27. (http://www.canyon-news.com/artman2/publish/beverlyhills/Natalie_Wood_Investigation_Shocker_Exclusive.php) Smith said in part, "As you know, Tommy, I did take her to the U.S.C Marine Science Center to avoid taking her through the public at Two Harbors. I was a treatment supervisor for scuba diving accidents. So I was very familiar with the facility. I laid Natalie at the entrance platform and the deputy and I took off her Down Jacket, and we had to check her out for any foul play. That is when we found out she had nothing on under her full length night gown. We looked carefully for anything unusual and did not find any bruising as suggested in Marti's book." Adding, "I closed her eyes which was very easy to do. When I looked at her she did not look like she had been deceased that long, as I had

seen before in drowning victims. We covered her up with a disposable blanket. I took off her rings and jewelry while we waited for what I thought would be Wagner for I.D. purposes. Instead the captain of the boat arrived! I pulled down the blanket from her face and he said yes that is her. I gave him her jewelry and he left. He did not see any other part of her and I always wondered why he said he did in the book? And I was also disappointed why Wagner did not come over," said Smith.

Though the accounts on that day are often disputed, obviously due to the emotions everyone must have been going through when Natalie Wood's body was found and a part of American and Hollywood history would be forever changed. Canyon News has obtained exclusive and authentic documentation of sketches from the official autopsy of Wood, and although it is not normally in good taste to make those documents public. It is important to prove facts of the case when there are discrepancies between parties.

Davern and Smith will have to reconcile their differing accounts and observations, however, the Los Angeles County Coroner's office did declare Natalie Wood's death an accidental drowning, and Robert Wagner has always maintained that he gave his full account of what happened to his late wife before her death and has consistently denied any wrongdoing in this matter.

The case expert and author of "Goodbye Natalie, Goodbye Splendour," Marti Rulli tells Canyon News, "I am glad that you and Canyon News always print people's accounts of their side of the story. However, I have done extensive research on this subject for nearly 30 years, and I can assure you, there were many bruises on Natalie's body. The



Exclusive Autopsy Sketch By LA Coroner (Rear)

fact that there are so many stories about the case means that it was not properly investigated or solved for that matter. And we intend to be in touch soon with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to see where this matter stands," concluded author Rulli.

Canyon News can report exclusively that CBS's "48 Hours" news magazine will be featuring a segment on Saturday, November 26, on the 30th anniversary of the famed actress's tragic death. Canyon News has an exclusive interview with Marti Rulli about the upcoming segment.

INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUPS OF INTEREST

- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum/?yguid=7499348>
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR-Diver/>
- <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/SwiftH2O-News/?yguid=7499348>
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sideimaging/?yguid=7499348>

My new favorite bumper sticker ...



	<h2>Diving Medicine Online</h2> <p><u>Ernest Campbell, MD, FACS</u></p> <p>Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non-medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist</p>
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Herniated Disc Disease

Diving With Unoperated Disc Disease

Diving with un-operated herniated disc disease is thought by some authorities to constitute a contra-indication to scuba diving. However, post surgical and healed vertebral fusions generally are thought not to impose any restrictions on diving. In addition, there is the theoretical caveat that there is an increased risk of bubble formation in regions of bone where there has been some disruption of blood supply - leaving an increased or decreased vascularity. There have been no studies to prove or disprove these cautionaries, however.

Cervical disc problems causing radicular neuropathy should not dive until this has been surgically repaired. It would be our feeling that if you dive, you should discuss this with your surgeon in terms of weight-bearing,

climbing and the hyperextended neck position that is required with scuba diving.

You would be wise to have a neurological examination carefully recorded and with you on your dives for comparison reference in case of a decompression accident.



Lumbar herniated discs without protrusion can and do dive - however, there is a definite risk of acute herniation with the lifting activity and strain of getting back into the boat. Acute herniation can mimic a decompression accident.

Return to Diving Post-surgical

There are no set guidelines that govern the return to diving after disc surgery. This will depend to a great extent on the type of surgery, presence or absence of complications, whether or not a fusion has been done and if there have been any complicating factors, such as a wound infection or residual symptoms.

Generally, a person may return to diving in three months with the OK of the operating surgeon.

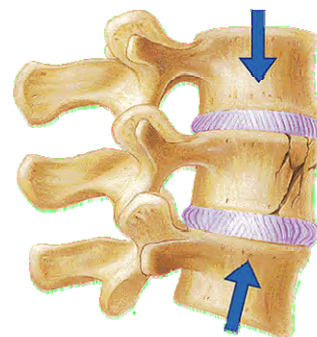
There is an absolute contraindication to diving after disc surgery that has failed and results in spinal stenosis. If there is major residua or deficit after the surgery--one probably should not dive. There is a relative contraindication to diving after having a herniated disc repaired

below L1-2 and a repaired cervical disc from the anterior approach--both should wait at least 3 months and then dive only if there are no residua.

There are those who theorize that the possibility of Neurological DCS would be more likely with bubble formation at the site of the disruption of the vasculature in the operative area. No man studies bear this out. Some feel that back surgery and previous DCS of the spine are possibly predisposing factors in the formation of spinal DCS. (Caroline Fife, MD).

Fred Bove, MD ("Diving Medicine"--Bove and Davis) feels that there is clear evidence that minimizing bubble formation is essential for safe diving and to avoid long-term damage to the central nervous system. This goal can be achieved by conservative diving that reduces the total exposure to nitrogen under pressure.

Retrospective studies of diving accidents have indicated that the threshold depth is arbitrarily 86 feet. If you have had successful surgery without residua (neurological findings) you can dive (sport, not commercial).



Compression fractures

People with compression fractures with nerve root or spinal deficit residua, even if episodic, should not dive until the problem is repaired by spinal fixation. Symptoms of numbness and pain are mimicked by decompression sickness and pose problems in differentiation after

EVENTS*



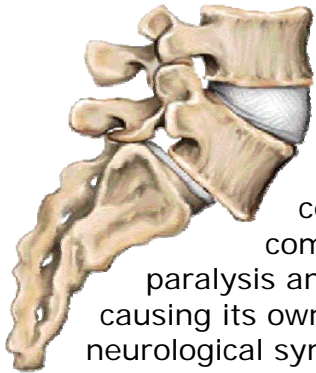
NCSOS

NATIONAL CAPITAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM

a dive. The chances of even more scar tissue developing postoperatively are great. Weight bearing and donning gear on the surface can be real problems to the affected diver, even though it is stated that once in the water they are more comfortable due to the loss of gravity effects.

DAN feels that diving should be postponed until the back is surgically stabilized. With significant symptoms, it wouldn't take much to become paraplegic--and then the diver would be in a jam. Ironically, if the diver were paraplegic and stable--then we could make some arrangement for him to dive --but that's certainly not what we want!

Spondylolisthesis



A diver has to carry his equipment on land (boat) and be able to perform hard physical work on occasions. Weight-bearing with grade 3 spondylolisthesis can certainly lead to nerve root compression, resulting in severe pain, paralysis and loss of function. In addition to causing its own difficulties, this can mask neurological symptoms caused by decompression illness. Until surgically repaired, significant spondylolisthesis would be disqualifying; a three month post operative period should be allowed and no diving at all if there are significant residuals.

Surface and Dive Operations in Contaminated Water
For the past several months planning has been underway to present a symposium in the fall of 2011 on the topic of surface and sub-surface operations by rescue and enforcement personnel in the contaminated water and ice environment. This is a joint presentation by the Ottawa Fire Service, the Ottawa Police Service and the Ottawa Paramedic Service. The Organizing Committee is grateful for the very generous support of our corporate sponsors, as well as the invaluable support offered by the OPPFA and OFS Special Operations.

The Symposium is being held October 13th and 14th at the Holiday Inn and Suites Kanata (Ottawa, ON, Canada). Registrations are being accepted online at www.ncsos2011.ca. Seating is limited so you are encouraged to respond early to reserve your space. Please visit the website for more information. A very dynamic and informative selection of presenters will be on hand to discuss all aspects of contaminated water operations.

Mr. Steve Barsky, an internationally recognized contaminated water dive expert, brings with him over 25 years of experience. Steve will present attendees with new and innovative approaches to dealing with contaminated

diving and surface operations and be available to discuss equipment maintenance and repair issues. Mr. Bob McKee, Chief of Texas Task Force 1, will discuss the role of first responders to large scale events, with particular emphasis on exposure to contaminated waters in flood and moving water environments. Specific equipment and tactical considerations for the first responder as well as training, safety and logistical issues will be covered.

This symposium will provide a unique opportunity to share this information with our partners as we learn additional material from these nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts. In addition to these well known experts, special guests will discuss a wide range of related topics such as infectious diseases, technical decontamination requirements, contaminated water sampling, specialized equipment, deployment considerations, spills and boom deployment, small vessel compliance and operating issues, communication (unified command) issues and training and safety related concerns.

A significant body of work has been assimilated from many sources including FDNY, EPA, NOAA, US Navy, US Coast Guard, the Canadian Coast Guard and DND. Additionally, the NFPA has developed NFPA 1952, Standard on Surface Water Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment, which outlines the surface rescuers complete ensemble to mitigate the effects of exposure while conducting operations.

Come join us in October for an interesting and informative opportunity to learn more and discuss these issues with fellow firefighters from across the country. Seating is limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

DUI RISK MANAGEMENT 2011 TRAINING PROGRAM

Oct 21 Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings
Nov 11 Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
**Nov 18 Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba
Park**



TEST DIVE THE WHITES FUSION DRYSUIT

To attend a Fusion Demo Day, you have to register and pay the applicable fee.

[Click HERE for REGISTRATION INFO](#)



[Crime Mapping Research Conference](#)

October 19-21, 2011
Miami, Florida

**[6th Annual Homeland Security Professional
Conference & Expo](#)** - October 3-7, 2011 - Las
Vegas, NV

[A TO Z GRANTWRITING SEMINAR](#)

October 22, November 5 & 19, and December 10, 2011
(Saturdays)

4-Day Seminar and Non Profit Development Certificate
Program at Loyola Marymount University
CALL LMU for Details, Fees, and Registration at (310) 338-
1971 OR VISIT

**If you have an event to share, send the
information to: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com**



**2011 National
Crime Scene Investigator's
Camp**

Oct. 23-28 • Lake of the Ozarks, MO

<http://www.catlet.org/csi-2011.php>

International Trauma Conference

October 25-28, 2011

Nashville, Tennessee

Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

October 31- November 1, 2011

<http://www.techno-forensics.com/>



<http://www.offshorecomms.com/>

VIP CODE : OFFCOMM

Global Security Workshop - November 11-19,
2011 - Tel Aviv, Israel

SWAT Counter Terrorism Operations - November
15-18, 2011 - Yakima, WA

Continuing Education PSDM-CE-88

Free Online Training:
**Epilepsy and Seizure Response for Law
Enforcement and EMS -**

https://www.centrelearn.com/login_epilepsyfoundation.asp

- 1) OSH 29 CFR 1910.120 Subpart "T" does not apply to volunteer divers for a department.
a. True b. False
- 2) A state plan complying with a OSHA rule could be more strict than the OSHA rule.
a. True b. False
- 3) When performing search for evidence any item found should be processed.
a. True b. False
- 4) Insurance coverage for PSDivers is automatic.
a. True b. False
- 5) Diving with a herniated disc does not pose a contra-indication.
a. True
b. False

PSD / ERD Instructors - If you would like to help with our Continuing Education program, let us know. We always welcome and can use the extra help. Drop us an email at:

PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

- 6) OSHA is the governing body for
- Carbon credits
 - Workplace safety
 - Corporate taxation
 - Public safety
- 7) OSHA standards
- Always apply to public safety diving
 - Never apply to public safety diving
 - Sometimes apply to public safety diving
 - All of the above
- 8) OSHA standards
- Always apply to commercial diving
 - Never apply to commercial diving
 - Sometimes apply to commercial diving
 - All of the above
- 9) Salvage operations are
- Subject to OSHA guidelines
 - Exempt for PSD teams
 - Beyond the ability of PSD teams
 - Exempt from OSHA guidelines only if divers are tethered
- 10) OSHA requires that everyone working in close proximity of water
- Must be a certified diver
 - Must be a current union member
 - Must wear PPE
 - All of the above
- 11) OSHA guidelines require that minimum guidelines for protection, exposure mitigation and reporting practices are met for anyone who can potentially come in contact with
- human remains recoveries
 - blood
 - blood borne pathogens
 - all of the above
- 12) Knowing OSHA guidelines
- Is not necessary for PSD teams
 - Makes PSD team liable if OSHA guidelines are not followed
 - Assists in overall safety and professionalism of a PSD team
 - Ensures funding for PSD teams
- 13) State Plan States
- Meet or exceed OSHA guidelines
 - Are a way around safety guidelines
 - Are unconstitutional
 - Provides entitlements for PSD teams
- 14) According to OSHA, PSDs operating in a current over 1 knot
- must be tethered
 - Must hold the PADI current diver certification
 - Must be strong swimmers
 - All of the above

Team Discussion:

1. Gather OSHA documents that pertain to diving or related rules and determine how they apply to your team.
2. Review with your team the insurance policy carried for your team. Determine if it covers "diving". Review your "on the job" injury benefits and how or if they apply to your diving activities.
3. Review your team OSH rules outside of the CFR 1910.120 and how it may affect your operation, Such as confined space or HAZMAT.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Chemical spill information can be obtained by calling 1-800-424-9300.

DAN Medical Information Line at 1-919-684-2948

DAN operates a 24-hour **emergency hotline** (1-919-684-9111) to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance for diving or non-diving incidents.

PSDM 88 CE Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	A	B	B	B	B	A
8	9	10	11	13	14	
A	A	C	D	A	A	

These training agencies have recognized PSDiver Monthly as a valued addition to their programs and Continuing Education requirements.

Public Safety Diving

Association (PSDA) recognizes and approves the PSDiver CE program. Each month's Q&A program credits 1 CEU for renewal up to a maximum of 3 CEUs from this source for each year's renewal.



ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.

Life Saving Resources

Lifesaving Resources advocates the need for Public Safety and Rescue personnel to be trained in Water and Ice Rescue and recognizes the PSDiver Monthly CE Program for continuing education training and credits.



Lifeguard Systems – TEAM LGS



We welcome all training agencies and organizations to participate. For details, email <mailto:PSDiverMonthly@aol.com>

Longest scuba dive in open fresh water Allen Sherrod sets world record

http://www.worldrecordsacademy.org/stunts/longest_scuba_dive_in_open_fresh_water_Allen_Sherrod_sets_world_record_112485.html

September 19, 2011 ([Video on site](#))

GROVELAND, FL, USA -

- Diver and longtime scuba instructor Allen Sherrod, 47, of Groveland, Florida, emerged from Lake David after 120 hours (five days), 14 minutes and 11 seconds - setting the new world record for the Longest scuba dive in open fresh water, according to World Records Academy (www.worldrecordsacademy.org).



**Photo: In this photo:
MeduSirena Marina,
Allen Sherrod.
([enlarge photo](#))**

The Guinness world record for the Longest scuba dive in open fresh water was set by Jerry Hall (USA), who remained submerged at a depth of 3.6 m (12 ft) on a submerged platform in Watauga Lake, Tennessee, USA, for 120 hr 1 min 9 sec.

Guinness World Records also recognized the world record for the longest open saltwater SCUBA dive: 48 hr 8 min 17 sec, set by William Goodman (UK) at Blue Marlin Dive, Lombok, Indonesia.

In accordance with the Guinness World Records rules, he did not surface at any time.

When he surfaced, Sherrod said his first glimpse of sunlight, along with applause from a crowd full of onlookers, was welcome. "I was glad to see the sun. It's been gloomy down there (20 feet below the depths) for the last five days," Sherrod said. "I was also glad to see everybody out here supporting me.

Sherrod was also motivated by the fact that his dive was raising money for a wounded warriors organization pursuing diving efforts.

Safety divers, Groveland Fire Rescue medics and police officers, family members, friends and strangers all kept a close watch on Sherrod.

Throughout the dive, Sherrod had a computer monitor and keyboard specially rigged up to watch movies, listen to music and log onto Facebook until when it leaked and stopped working, he said the hardest part was not talking and joking around with anyone for all those hours.

"The hardest part physically, was getting through the night hours, but mentally, it was just the waiting and not talking to anybody," Sherrod said.

"After a while, it gets...well, let's just say I'm not a patient person and this was a milestone for me to have gone that long without talking, laughing and being active."

