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Underwater Search and Recovery		



Cross Reference:..... 3.38, 3.54

I. Introduction

The Underwater Search and Recovery Team (dive team) is responsible for underwater search and recovery operations. The dive team is not responsible for rescue operations. Underwater search and recovery operations encompass underwater criminal investigation, the recovery of bodies and property, and other operations, which by their nature fall into the scope of duties and obligations of the Division of Police.

II. Policy Statements

- A. If the request is for an under ice recovery, approval must be obtained from a deputy chief.
- B. **Requests for Water Recovery Services at Drowning Scenes**
 1. **Communications Bureau** personnel shall make notifications as follows:
 - a. The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. The Homicide **Unit**.
 - c. The Patrol **Administration** Sergeant.
 - d. The dive team administrative sergeant or the dive master.
 - e. The county coroner, as needed.
 2. If the occurrence is during normal business hours, **Communications Bureau** personnel shall also make the following notifications:
 - a. The zone commander for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. The Special Services Bureau Commander.
 - c. The Marine Park Unit **Sergeant**.
 - d. The deputy chief of the appropriate Patrol Subdivision.
- C. **Requests for Water Recovery Services at all other Scenes**
 1. **Communications Bureau** personnel shall make notifications as follows:
 - a. The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. The Marine Park Unit **Sergeant**.
 - c. The on-duty **Support Section** Lieutenant.

d. For an immediate call out of the dive team:

(1) Make notifications using the current list of team members maintained by the Communications Bureau.

(2) Obtain and record the estimated time of arrival of all team members notified.

III. Procedures

A. On-Duty Marine Park **Unit Sergeant**, On-Duty **Support Section** Lieutenant, **or** Zone Lieutenant

1. Respond to the scene.

2. If a search operation is warranted, notify the dive team in the following order until a notification is made:

a. Divemaster

b. Assistant divemaster

c. Dive team administrative sergeant

d. On-duty dive team member

3. Mark involved team members on special assignment. No team member will respond if on their second day off unless approved by the Special Services Bureau Commander.

B. Divemaster/Assistant Divemaster

Assume operational command of diving operations at the recovery location.

C. Dive Team Member in Charge of the Dive

When conducting underwater search and recovery operations, ensure dive operations are executed in a safe manner and that dive team members do not take unnecessary risks.

D. Request from a Foreign Agency

1. **Communications Bureau Personnel**

a. When notified of a request from a foreign agency within Franklin County, contact the dive team administrative sergeant who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made.

b. When notified of a request from a foreign agency **contiguous to** Franklin County, contact the Special Services Bureau Commander who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made. The Special Services Bureau Commander shall inform the dive team of the decision.

c. **When notified of a request from a foreign agency not within Franklin or a contiguous county, contact the Support Services Deputy Chief who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made.**