

PS Diver Monthly

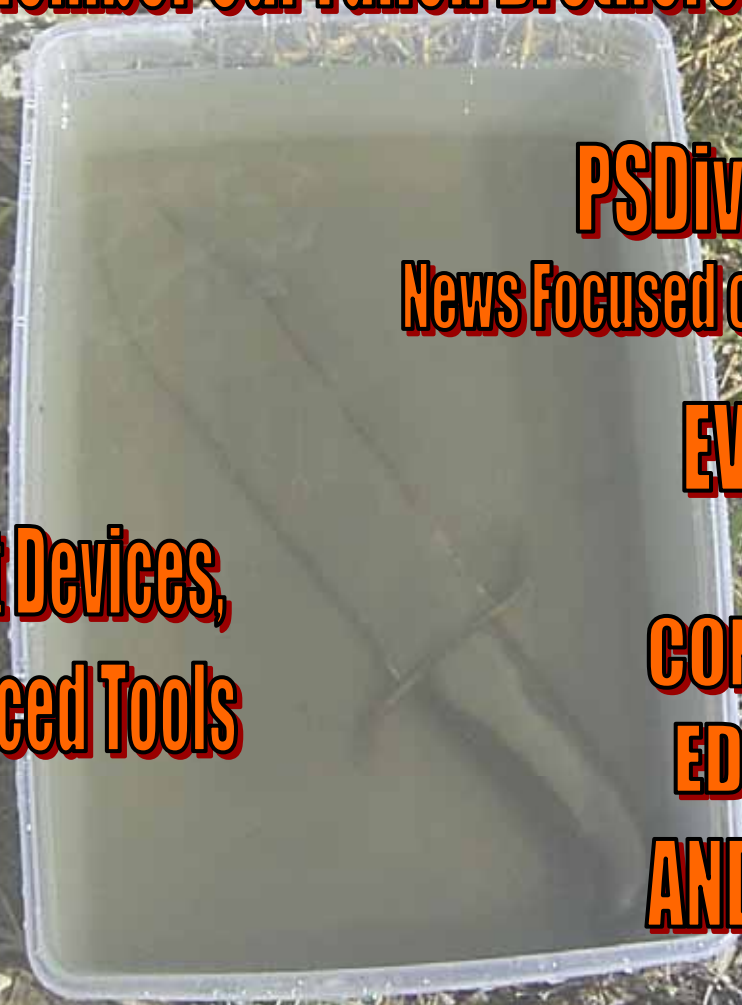


DECEMBER 2008

Issue 57

2008 in Review

We Remember Our Fallen Brothers



PS Diver NEWS

News Focused on Forensics

EVENTS

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**Ice Rescue Transport Devices,
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2008 in Review and Forecast for 2009

2008 was a remarkable and eventful year. We witnessed a number of incidents and events that touched us and will be with us always. It is very difficult to decide what to include in an annual review and what I have included is more personal interest that may be general interest. I excuse this selfishness by reminding myself of how many emails and how much discussion I received concerning the majority of the subjects.

Some occurrences, like Hurricane Ike, were personal while others like the death of Gerald Leduc were hard reminders of just how dangerous our job can be and how fragile life is. My awareness of training, staffing and equipment issues is heightened and prominent in my activities both with my team and PSDiver. It is my hope that our combined efforts in the coming year will make 2009 safer for all of our water response teams.

We all need to take time to plan, organize and set goals for the coming year that will make this happen. Remember, we want to talk with you – not about you.

We Remember Our Fallen Brothers

Gerald Leduc Aug 3, 2008 Tiverton, Rhode Island

Gerald Leduc, a 25-year veteran, died after running into difficulty while diving in Stafford Pond for a missing man. Emergency officials received calls from people on shore who heard a woman screaming for help. Rescue crews raced to the pond but were unable to locate the missing man. Leduc, who lives near the pond, was off-duty. He called his fire chief and volunteered to join the search. He grabbed his diving gear, loaded it on his PWC and went to help. The Tiverton Firefighter suffered a heart attack and died while attempting the water rescue.



[Click here to go to the web site and download the report.](#)

Firefighter Dennis Rhodes
September 13, 2008
Argonia, Kansas

Around 8 o'clock Saturday night, a page went out to Argonia Volunteer Firefighters. Five young adults were stuck on a raft, trapped in the raging currents at the swollen Chikaskia River dam. They were not wearing life jackets.



Wellington Fire Fighters arrived and immediately put their boat in the water, but instead of things getting better, the situation continued to grow worse. The boat with three Wellington Fire Fighters capsized. Now eight people were trapped in the waters of the roaring river in need of rescue. We asked Wichita crews to come down and assist us, and we greatly appreciate them," said Catlin.

Before they arrived, a former volunteer firefighter from Argonia braved the terrifying currents trying to save those in harm's way. The currents proved too strong. 47 year-old Dennis Rhoads was pulled from the strong waters and was taken to Via Christi St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Wichita where he died a short time later. You could call it heroism," said Catlin. "Our prayers go to the family and I'm sure the whole city is behind me on that one," he said.

[Click here to go to the web site and download the report.](#)

Hurricane Ike
Devastation

While hurricanes are a naturally occurring event of nature, the Texas Gulf Coast has seen its share in the last few years. In 2008 Hurricane Ike came through Southeast Texas with a fury that has been compared to the great hurricane of 1900. With a tidal surge in some areas estimated to be 18' to 21', entire communities were erased on the Bolívar Peninsula. Galveston Island saw a wall of water come across the seawall and cover the island causing incredible damage.

Loss of the Galveston PD Dive Academy

The Galveston PD Dive Academy has permanently closed. The folks at GPD who were instrumental in maintaining the program have retired. With the loss of personnel and devastation by



Hurricane Ike, the Dive Academy is looking for a new home.

2008 Economic Issues

In 2008 we watched the stock market crater. We saw oil and gas prices reach levels that left us stunned and broke. While gas and oil have returned to "normal" levels, we are stuck with budgets that have been strained and are seeing cut backs in dive team funding. We predict that this will continue for another 12 to 24 months and that a lot of teams will suffer setbacks because of the lack of funding. Those teams who are able to continue will be forced to do the best with what they have. ALL teams are encouraged to begin or expand their grant research projects.

PSDiver Monthly and the materials offered at www.PSDiver.com are all offered free of charge. We are dependant on our sponsor and advertising revenue. Because they allow us to offer you these materials, we consider them to be your sponsors as well. Most of them continually express a desire to work with PSD teams and are some of the best folks you will ever work with. The recent economic situation has caused a few to have to step back for now and we wish them the best and will continue to support them where we can. You can help by adding your sponsors into your equipment bids. Take time to visit



their web sites and look at the product lines they have to offer. Some of them may surprise you!

Grants and Fundraisers

There are a variety of grants available for fire and police departments. Finding grants for dive teams is harder to do and most teams who are able to do so are reluctant to share the information because of the limited funding that is usually available. One of the reasons fire departments have a harder time than law enforcement groups is because fire department dive teams are not usually recognized as anything other than a rescue group. If you have been a subscriber for a while, you know we do not believe that is true. Now will be the time to redefine your team as an underwater investigative group who works for the local LE as their underwater team. This means you will need to communicate your abilities to the LE and learn how they need evidence collected and documented. Once your team is able to work within the requirements of the LE, ask for a letter of endorsement recognizing your team as a specialty team within their investigative force. Then look at applying for both FD AND LE grants!

PSDiver Monthly CE Training

PSDiver Monthly has been working to develop and improve our monthly Continuing Education offerings. The program is designed to help with

training ideas and supplement your own team training – not replace it. We can always use your help with this project. If you would like to share your training outlines we will work to incorporate them into the CE program.

SOG Updates

Recently I began updating my own dive team's operational and administration procedures. It has been a while since we have done this and I admit to being surprised at how outdated our written guidelines are compared to our current training and procedures. When was the last time *your* SOPs/SOGs were reviewed? Let's use the start of a new year to take time to review and update our SOPs/SOGs. We have uploaded a number of Fire, LE and other SOPs/SOGs on our web site for you to use as a reference or guide. Once you update your own, please forward us a copy for us to share with others.

Computer Issues

Last year I experienced more computer problems than usual. I lost an entire hard drive, luckily most of my files were backed up but I still lost a lot. Then just last month I managed to drop one of my back up external hard drives and lost the back up files it contained. Those included an article intended for this very issue. Fortunately I have copies of most of those files and did not get set back too far. The reason I share this with you is to offer you a reminder to back up you own computer files. Buy an external hard drive and copy your photos and document files to it. Program files, unless you have a lot of the original set up files on your drive, will not work

if copied. If nothing else, burn DVD copies or CD copies of your important files. Make a habit of doing this at least once a quarter and start NOW.

New Plans and Goal Setting

We have been working on adding to and improving the www.PSDiver.com web site. We have added news videos, SOPs and a page for PSD Fatality Reports. Most of the materials offered on the web site can be downloaded. The plan for the coming months is to continue to build and improve the site. Your input has been valuable to us and has helped us prioritize the work we do there. Please continue to write in your suggestions and comments.

What plans do you have for the year?

Plan setting is hard to do without a goal in mind. So take the time to consider where you are as a team and where you want to be by the end of the year. Since most of us will need to consider limited budgets, we will need to work on *how* we can reach our goals too.

Your local YMCA will probably let you use their pool for controlled water work. Are your teams swimming skills where they should be? Set a swimming goal and work towards that. While your team is there, work on top water rescue skills. Our team worked with the YMCA and Red Cross one year and we went through a Red Cross Life Guard program. Once completed we developed a response capable team to a river environment using only the equipment we already owned. You might be surprised

at how many different uses you can find for some of the equipment you already own.

Are your team members scuba certifications progressing? Get with a local instructor and see what specialty classes can be added to your training days. You may be able to find an instructor willing to help just for the different teaching experience.

Do you have a training schedule made for 2009? If not, now is a great time to do so. Schedule time for classroom, pool work, controlled open water training and local water drills. If your team is advanced enough to be training monthly and maintains a regular schedule, look at what you are doing and single out one or two very specific skill sets and focus on perfecting them in each class. Consider adding a class on rope work and knots. Contact your local LE and see if their Crime Scene and / or Detective group will teach a few evidence classes. Talk with your local Medical Examiner for the same. If you just run out of ideas, contact your water department or local college and see if they have any water related projects your team can assist with.

Contact regional teams and plan a joint training day. Does your region have an Auto Task Force? Contact them and see if they have a potential water area of interest that may be a dumping ground for stolen vehicles. Use the opportunity to work with the group and practice skills and documentation.

If your team has a boat, put together a boat handling class that includes backing a trailer and launching the boat. It is surprising to me that some larger teams only have one or two team members who can launch their boat. Boat handling programs as well as boating safety programs can be found at the **U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division web site. Just click on the following link.** <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

You are a public safety team. What are you going to do in 2009 that relates to public safety? Consider a "Trash Day Roundup". Contact a local civic group or school and build an interactive program that involves your team and your community.

There are many things you can do on a small or even no budget if you work at it. Take time to plan. Make your team safer. If you need help, ideas or advice, join our discussion group and ask –that is what it is there for. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum/>. With almost 1500 members worldwide, it is one of your most valuable resources available.

Let's have a great year in 2009.

Stay Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
www.PSDiver.com



Special to PSDiver Monthly

Ice Rescue Transport Devices, Platforms, and Advanced Tools: Keep it simple!

By Andrea Zaferes and Walt Hendrick

Trainers sometimes tell us that it is impossible to expect the short ice rescue operation times of five to fifteen minutes from time of arrival to time the victim is back on shore, that we expect from our students and our own teams. One of the key pieces to such performance is having the right transport device. The right transport device decreases the amount of time it takes to reach the victim, extricate the victim, and transport the victim to shore and an ambulance.

✓ Check it out

If a rescuer cannot easily establish victim positive buoyancy while working on the transport device for support, then think twice about buying it.

After working with a variety of sleds, boards, kayaks, ramps, and other ice transport devices with several thousand students on everything from open water, breaking ice, and strong ice, in weather ranging from calm conditions to severe blizzards, our staff and students alike concluded that the ice rescue board was the most effective ice tool, with the inflatable Class V whitewater kayak coming in second. The advantage of the kayak is

that it is usable for rescue all year long. However, it will not travel across the ice nearly as well as an ice board.

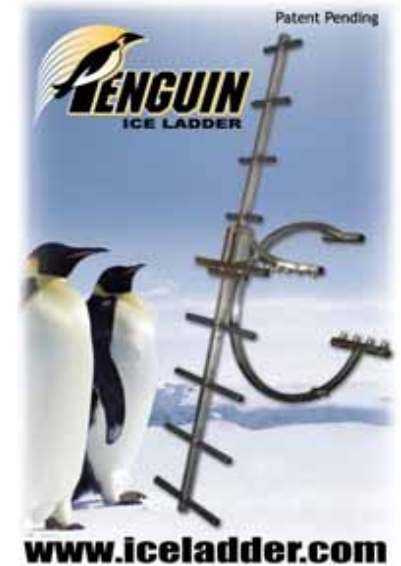
This board in conjunction with the flotation sling, allows the most rapid rescues of any tool we have used. It requires only one rescuer, easily and rapidly transports a victim or rescuer across all conditions from water to strong ice, is barely affected by wind, can safely be used for unconscious to aggressive victims, is not made of metal, has all padded-edges, can be used as

a backboard, can transport the victim from the ice to the ambulance, is light weight and easy to carry in a rescue vehicle, does not require set-up time, is very durable, and is one of the least expensive ice transport devices.

Before we list out the important features of a safe and effective ice rescue transport device, it is important to

✓ Check it out

If the device cannot be passed off to an aggressive or self-rescue cable victim to allow the victim to climb on the device without assistance, think twice before purchasing it.



understand the first and most important part of any surface rescue: Establish immediate victim positive buoyancy. Preventing a surface operation from

becoming a subsurface operation is critical for both victim survival and rescuer safety. Upon contact with the victim, whether directly or indirectly, establish positive buoyancy.

Some tools like the Rescue Rocket air-powered line gun have a sling that self inflates when it hits water.

If a conscious victim can put their head and arms through this sling while surface rescue technicians work to reach that or a different victim, the chances of victim survival can be much higher. This is an excellent tool, but note that it requires practice in the same weather conditions it may have to be deployed in to save a real victim. Do not just purchase one and put it on the truck, rather use it in all water drills to make sure team members are proficient using and re-packing it.

Bigger is not necessarily better. In fact, bigger usually means heavier, which means:

- it requires more personnel to move and operate it;
- more personal protection equipment is needed for the additional personnel;
- it is more likely to break weak ice;
- it takes longer to deploy from the truck to the ice, from the ice to the victim, and back.

✓ Check it out

Rescue tools that are high on the water and prone to being blown by wind are not usually a good choice, especially if areas of open water need to be crossed. If it cannot be easily transported over open water or slush, it will not be very useful. Remember operations may occur during blizzards.

Surface Ice Rescue requires light, quick, rapid rescue capabilities. Surface ice rescue needs to be completed on the first attempt.

Inflatable platforms and walkways are excellent tools when used properly for certain conditions. They are incredible platforms for muddy or swampy areas, but may not always be the best option for ice rescue. Some aspects to consider before purchasing a ramp:

1. Two ramps are needed to move across the ice towards a victim. One ramp is picked up and placed in front of the other, like taking steps.
2. Moving ramps across the ice takes at least two personnel, and can be time consuming and exhausting, as the ramps are relatively heavy and cumbersome.
3. Ramps are not inexpensive.
4. Most ramps are not self-bailing, so rescuers must work to keep water out of the ramp and away from the victim, once the victim is inside it.
5. Ramps must be inflated before use, which may delay a rescue.
6. They are more wind susceptible than ice boards.



MARSARS Ice Rescue Sled

What are the benefits

of an inflatable ramp?

1. They are more stable platforms than most devices
2. They can be of great aid when spanning open water to ice, and are useful when crossing some moving waterways.
3. They are excellent for spanning swamps and very muddy areas.
4. If most of your ice rescues occur less than 50 feet from shore, a 50-foot ramp is an excellent tool.

If an aggressive victim can easily tip-over the device by simply grabbing it or attempting to climb on it, think twice. A rescuer should be able to control both the device and the victim. For most device designs, the higher the device is off the water the more likely it will tip-over.

Inflatable, Class V kayaks are effective ice rescue tools, and are very stable for yearlong surface operations and dive operation support tools. They are in the same price range as an ice board. Hard kayaks are more difficult to use, and can be less gentle to the victim than inflatable kayaks, but they are less than half the price.

Properly rigged flotation backboards can also be used. They do not work nearly as well as boards, kayaks, or some sleds, but they can be purchased and properly rigged for under \$200.

Avoid devices made of metal. Metal is highly conductive and therefore rapidly steals away precious body heat. Metal is also a hard material. What would you rather

✓ Check it out

If technicians will strain their backs to place the victim on the device, think twice. Also, carefully think twice about devices that place pressure on the victim's diaphragm and that result in a loss of airway when a victim becomes unconscious. Can the transport device be used for victims with spine, head, and other injuries?

accidentally be banged against, metal or a softer material? Make sure all hard edges of a transport device are padded to prevent further victim or rescuer injury, device is made of plastic. Avoid devices with sharp

or pointy parts that could accidentally end up in a victim or rescuer. A device of the past is a metal boat. Metal boats take a great deal of energy and time to reach a victim, are unstable, rip heat from everyone touching them, make it difficult to extricate a victim safely from the water, and are a poor choice of surface ice transport device for most conditions.

Other questions to ask are:

- Can the device be used as a backboard for patients with possible head, spine, or other injuries?
- Does the patient have to be removed from the device to transport the patient from the shoreline to the ambulance?
- Can the patient remain secured on the device when extricated from open water to a boat?
- Is the device simple to use so that it does not require frequent practice several times a year?

- Are there parts or pieces of the device that can be easily lost or broken, rendering it ineffective?
- Does the device have proven durability and longevity?
- Is the device cost effective?

✓ **Check it out**

Make sure you try out a piece of equipment under a variety of conditions (hard ice, breaking ice, open water, difficult embankments, few personnel, submerging victim, injured victim, strong winds...) before purchasing it. Try out several different types of devices before making a final decision.



Penguin Ice Ladder in Use

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PSDiver News

Match found for B.C. foot

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/549410>

Dec 05, 2008 THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCOUVER – DNA testing shows a female foot discovered on the B.C. coastline last month matches another one discovered in May, 2008. DNA analysis was used to match the remains of a right foot found May 22 on Kirkland Island, near Richmond and Delta, with the remains of a left foot found Nov. 11 in Richmond on Finn Slough, the B.C. Coroners Service said.

Both feet were encased in New Balance runners and were among six feet that have been found along the West Coast since August, 2007.

The investigation to determine the identity of this pair of feet, as well as a pair of male feet matched on July 10 and a remaining right foot, is ongoing, the Coroner's Service said. "In all cases, these remains appear to have naturally separated (disarticulated) from the body," the Coroners Service said in a news release issued Friday. "There is no forensic evidence at this time to support anything other than disarticulation as there are no tool or trauma marks on the remains."

The Coroners Service says water temperature, decomposition and predation from marine life contribute to disarticulation and a number of variables make it

difficult to determine just how long remains have been in the water.

The Coroners Service uses physical characteristics and DNA analysis of the feet to establish a profile. Those profiles are maintained in a provincial database for future comparisons.

The latest foot discovered was found by a couple walking their dogs along the banks of the Fraser River. The first foot, a male's right foot, was located on Jedidiah Island near Parksville on Aug. 20, 2007. The man's identity has been confirmed but has not been released at his family's request.

The second foot, a right male Reebok running shoe, was found Aug. 26, 2007 on Gabriola Island near Nanaimo and has not yet been identified.

The third foot, discovered Feb. 8 on Valdez Island near Gabriola, has been matched to the fifth foot, found June 16 on Westham Island near Kirkham Island.

In August, another foot was discovered in Washington state, about 50 kilometres west of Port Angeles.

RCMP have said that foot does not match any found in B.C.

SCC students use robot to map crime scene

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200881204051>

December 8, 2008 Rose Garrett • Southwestern Community College

Forget the yellow crime scene tape to mark a crime scene. Students at Southwestern Community College are learning to map crime scenes using cutting-edge surveying equipment. "We're combining our criminal justice and surveying classes to expose our students to advanced crime-solving techniques," said SCC CJ instructor Mike Burnette. "We are one of the first community colleges to do this and we're one of the first to use a robot to help us."

Students call the robot - actually a Trimble VX spatial station- Roberta and use her to measure angles and distance and calculate coordinates.

"Mike and I team teach the forensic surveying class and the reason we've joined with John Matchulat's crime scene processing class to show the students in both courses how surveying can greatly enhance the capture, positioning, and mapping of crime scene evidence," said SCC surveying technology instructor Peter Messier. "It is a wonderful opportunity for cooperation between two disciplines. The law enforcement students get to see the capabilities and technology that is available, and the

surveying students get to see what is needed to properly map a crime or accident scene."

Matchulat, who spent 25 years with the Michigan State Police, said the SCC students "receive training above and beyond what you get in basic law enforcement. They've experienced the big picture of combining crime scene processing, forensics and surveying to properly measure and document a crime scene from an educated best case scenario. It gives them great hireability when they graduate."

"In a normal criminal justice class you would establish your inner perimeter or "hot zone," at the crime scene and tape that off," said student Jan Craig of Franklin. "Then you would conduct a methodical search, sometimes it's a line search where everybody slowly walks in a straight line down the perimeter looking for evidence. Then you would measure and sketch the scene."

"But now with Roberta we can digitally map out the scene and put in the computer. It's a whole new perspective because most criminal justice students don't know much, if anything, about surveying."

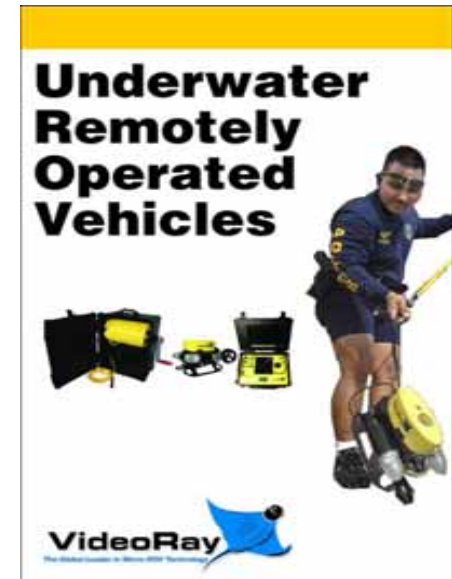


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The advertisement features a central image of a diver in a red and black dry suit. To the left, there is a circular logo with the letters 'DUI'. Below the main text, there is a small inset photograph showing a group of people in safety gear at an outdoor site.

"The surveying makes it so precise and accurate," said student Meghan Cribbs of Franklin. "One of the things we learned in criminal justice was that if you don't measure and plot correctly, it can be disputed in court. But there's no disputing Roberta."

Another way Roberta helps at the crime scene is marking actual depth, according to Dale Hall, SCC forensic biology instructor. "When we are out digging up bones at a crime scene, we don't have to estimate depth because Roberta calculates it for us."




A major benefit of bringing the disciplines together is to let students see how their actions impact others, Hall said. "Each student may be working on just one piece of an investigation but that one piece is part of a big team and you have to do your part right so the next person can do his part right...kind of like running a relay. You can't drop the baton, all the hand offs must be good for your team to win the race."

The diversity of the faculty enhances the program, students say. Instructors run the gamut from a detective with an underwater body and evidence recovery team, to

a patrol officer who is now a magistrate, a medical laboratory technician and a professional licensed engineer and land surveyor. "We give them real world knowledge," said Burnette, "and in doing so we try to show them the big picture of how every piece, every person impacts the whole."

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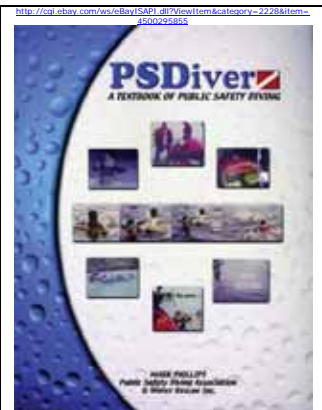
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Regina police team goes underwater

<http://www.leaderpost.com/Regina+police+team+goes+underwater/1053991/story.html>

By Derek Putz, Leader-Post December 9, 2008

REGINA -- While most people avoided the cold on Tuesday, the Regina Police Service Underwater Investigation and Recovery Team (UIRT) relished the icy conditions while training on Wascana Lake.

Dive team leader Const. Colin Magee explained that the team was training for thin-ice response. "What we're doing is we're using an ice sled system to simulate where a diver could get to, and then diving to a secondary

location where a victim would have potentially fallen through," he said.

During the exercise, a diver, dressed in scuba gear with an air tank, lowers himself on to a sled. He is attached to a rope as he slides his way across the surface to a hole in the ice. One team member acts as an anchor point to guide the diver and monitor his rope. "Our theory is, (if) kids were out playing on thin ice, they're going to make it out a lot further if they fall through than a grown man in his equipment would," Magee explained.

Magee is in his sixth year as a diver on the team. During his service, he's never had to rescue anyone, and estimates that his team gets called out for duty roughly three to six times a year. "Like anyone, we don't hope for an emergency, but we do look forward to practising our skills," he said.



The Regina Fire Department is responsible for surface water rescue, whereas the UIRT is only called out for sub-surface situations. It could be called out to recover a drowning victim, but it's also responsible for retrieving crime evidence and property.

In large-scale emergencies the eight-member team brings along a mobile command bus to keep everyone warm. The unit is on call 24 hours a day seven days a week. All members are police officers who have scuba training and a scuba certificate. They spend a lot of their time training, but still have other duties within the department. "That's why we make a point of training at the beginning of every winter," Magee said. "There are always thin-ice conditions and we might be called upon."

In addition to winter ice rescue, the team is called upon in the summer months as well. According to Magee, underwater situations are dangerous in the summer because the divers have to deal with swift waters, zero visibility, and underwater entanglements. In the winter, the visibility might be greater, but the whole task becomes more dangerous under a sheet of ice.



Regina Police Service Underwater Investigation and Recovery Team conducted exercises on Wascana Lake. Divers Cst. Craig Solomon and Cst. Pierre Beauchesne (full mask) practise in a open spot on the lake. Photograph by : Roy Antal, Leader-Post



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While the water is usually around 0 C, the wet suits and equipment for the divers allows them to stay underwater for upwards of 30 minutes.

Five-year team member Const. Pierre Beauchesne said being under the water is quite comfortable. "It's

much more comfortable (underwater) than it is up here, because you're moving and you're sweating down there," he said. "The suits are designed for you to be comfortable down there."

Beauchesne loves the job because he gets to dive somewhere new every day. Similarly, Magee loves the experience of being underwater. "It's the closest I'll ever come to being on another planet, because it is a different world," Magee said. "You realize that when you're down there."

The UIRT will conduct two more training sessions on the south side of the lake Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The public is welcome to view the training in progress, but Magee urges them to stand behind the police line and be cautious this winter. "I always encourage people, before they do any recreation on the ice, that they need to be really conscientious about what's

around them. Even though it's very cold (and) the ice can appear thick, it can be unsafe," he said.

Killeen police officer victim of Stillhouse drowning

<http://www.kdhnews.com/news/story.aspx?s=29825>
December 09, 2008 By [Mason W. Canales](#) Killeen Daily Herald

BELL COUNTY – Emergency response search crews found the body of a Harker Heights man Monday after a two-day scouring of a cove near Cedar Gap Park at Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

Justice of the Peace Garland Potvin pronounced Jason Wright, 31, a Killeen police officer, dead at 12:22 p.m. Monday after his body was found by dive teams.

The search for Wright began about 1:30 p.m. Sunday after a witness called Bell County 911 and reported that a boat had capsized near Cedar Gap Park, said Carroll Smith, Killeen Police Department public information coordinator, Sunday while crews searched the lake.



Herald/SARAH MOORE KUSCHELL
A rescue boat heads back to shore Sunday during the search for Killeen police officer Jason Wright at Cedar Gap Park at Stillhouse Lake.

The witness also reported that the boater surfaced and attempted to swim to shore, but went under about 20 feet from the shoreline, a KPD news release stated. The witness attempted to save Wright by diving into the water but failed to find him, the release stated.

As night fell, the search crews continued to scan the cove using a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter armed with a spotlight to aid the effort. The search ended at 8:30 p.m. "Nightfall just makes everything harder," Smith said Monday afternoon. "At night, we just shut it down for the officers' safety. We shut it down at 8:30 p.m."

The search continued at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Smith said.



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Wright was then found about 11:55 a.m. Monday.

The Bell County Sheriff's office, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens have classified the incident as an accidental drowning and Potvin will not order an autopsy.

The ruling came after hearing witness reports, but the Texas Game Wardens will continue to investigate the incident, said Major Rolly Correa of Texas

Parks and Wildlife.

The boat was recovered from the lake as well and the game warden will dry the boat and examine it to try and determine what happened, Correa said. "We are going to look and see if there is any cracks in the hull..." Correa said. "As of right now we don't see anything that would have caused major damage to the boat."

Correa believes the incident could have been avoided had Wright been wearing a life jacket. "It (an accident) can happen that quick," Correa said. "That is not the time to have them (life jackets) stored in a compartment or a chest. He got so close."

More than 50 people from various agencies assisted in the search. Those agencies consisted of the Bell County Sheriff's Office, Texas DPS, Army Corps of Engineers, KPD and Killeen Fire Department, Harker Heights Fire and Police Departments, Morgan's Point Dive Team, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Lifestar.

River search for teen's body cancelled

<http://www.komonews.com/news/35982334.html>

Dec 11, 2008 By [KOMO Staff](#)



AUBURN, Wash. -- Hours after announcing that divers would resume their search for the body of a 13-year-old boy who was swept down the Green River in a car last month, the King County Sheriff's Office said Thursday that the search has been cancelled.



Sheriff spokesman John Urquhart said heavy rains and strong winds expected Friday would make the planned search too dangerous.

Divers from King and Snohomish County were expected to resume looking for the body of Austin Fuda. Fuda was a passenger in a vehicle that ran off the road November 7th in the 29000 block of Green River Road Southeast.

The crash also killed 2-year-old Hunter Beaupre, whose body was found still inside the car when the vehicle was finally pulled to shore on November 11. The 16-year-old girl who was driving the car survived.

As the car sank below the surface, the girl was able to escape. But she was unable to free the two boys who were still

in the vehicle as it was swept away by a current swollen by recent heavy rains.

Auburn Fire Department Battalion Chief Dan Bosch said the girl who was driving told him the river current pushed her back from the vehicle as she tried to rescue the two boys. "She told me it was floating -- she was trying to get the car before it was submerged," Bosch said. "Upon my arrival we never saw a vehicle. It's a dark, fast-moving murky river."

Curt Beaupre, uncle of the missing 2-year-old boy, said the driver tried to get Hunter Beaupre out and thought that 13-year-old Austin would be able to get out on his own through an open window. "She tried everything she could," Beaupre said.

Strong river currents and murky waters have repeatedly complicated recovery efforts at the site of the crash.

Skull Found On Bank Of the Arkansas River

<http://www.ktul.com/news/stories/1208/577657.html>

December 13, 2008

Tulsa County - Tulsa County deputies are investigating, after a man found what deputies confirm is a human skull.

Deputies were called to the area Saturday afternoon when a man looking for arrow heads discovered the skull.

Related
Crews recover submerged car from Green River
Boys killed in Green River remembered

The skull was discovered on the bank of the river off of 161st West Avenue. Deputies say the skull appears to have washed up on the bank from the water.



News Channel 8

Deputies will continue the investigation on Sunday when they are expected to return to the area with a team of forensic experts.

Police still hunt for suspect in woman's dismemberment

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200881219035>

Editor's note: The following story appeared in the Citizen-Times on Oct. 1, 2007

12-19-200

ASHEVILLE – The how and why behind the killing of Kelly Lane Smith, her body dismembered and parts tossed into the French Broad River, continues to elude investigators more than a year after her death.

Police were left with only a partial skeleton, two dismembered hands, a severed arm and knowledge of Smith's entanglements with drugs and prostitution.

Investigators have revealed no break in the case and have not identified a specific person of interest. But detectives continue to get phone calls and are now taking another look at forensic evidence back from the state crime lab, Asheville police Capt. Tim Splain said last week.

Other efforts to track her killer included a request for help during Bele Chere in July, the same event where Smith was last seen alive a year earlier. Her body parts turned up about a week later. The broadcast resulted in some calls to police but "nothing substantial," Splain said.

Feet on the street

Forensics identified Smith and will bring investigators close to catching her killer, but good, traditional police work will be the only thing that will close the case, an expert said. "They have to pound the ground with leather, with shoe leather and follow the trail," said Lawrence Kobilinsky, chairman of the science department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. "I just don't think there's going to be any kind of magic forensic science that's going to make a difference here."



But Asheville detectives, who are working the streets for leads, aren't giving up on finding a physical link between Smith's remains and a suspect, Splain said. "The dismemberment aspect of it, and what kind of devices and tools might have been used ... at this point that's been sort of our focus because that would result in some actual hard evidence," Splain said.

Asheville police have a detective assigned to the case and are working on the investigation as there are leads.

Dismemberment

Why do killers dismember bodies? The answer to that question is a key part of any investigation, Kobilinsky said. "Sometimes it's done to hide the identity, sometimes it's done to get the body out of the place where she was killed, to take it out in pieces so that it doesn't cause any suspicion on the part of any eyewitnesses," he said.

Smith's remains were found in two different locations along the French Broad River. Her partial skeletal remains were spotted July 31, 2006, by employees of Highwater Clays on a lunch break near their warehouse at 600 Riverside Drive.

A woman walking a dog found the hands and arm in a culvert under the Smoky Park Bridge.

Dismemberment cases are uncommon, said Kobilinsky, who assists investigations in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

He said one of the more recent high-profile cases involved a New Jersey woman, Melanie McGuire, sentenced to life last month for shooting her husband, dismembering his body and putting the parts in suitcases that were thrown into the Chesapeake Bay near Virginia Beach, Va. "You've got to assume the body was transported from the site of the murder or dismemberment," he said.

Smith's skull was still attached to her skeletal remains. The head usually is severed to further hide a victim's identity, Kobilinsky said.

Police were able to match Smith's severed hands with her skeleton. Prints were lifted from the hands and an incision on her skull indicated a past surgery following a car accident. The fingerprints turned up multiple prior drug and prostitution charges.

Splain said Smith's killer "went through a considerable amount of work to dismember her at some point." He said they had not determined exactly how Smith died.

Science and technology



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Physical evidence obtained from body parts can lead police to a person, a location and even the tool used to cut the body in pieces, said Lee Meadows Jantz, coordinator of the forensic anthropology center at the University of Tennessee. "They can get probably a lot of tool mark information from the edge of the bones," she said. "There are different saw types. They leave characteristic marks that differentiate each other."

The university where Jantz works maintains a forensic lab nicknamed the "body farm," where scientists study the decomposition of people who have donated their bodies to science.

Fibers, hair or bodily fluid found on the body parts can help in an investigation, Jantz said. But factors such as a river can wash away much of that vital evidence, she said. "There's a tremendous amount of evidence you can find on a body," she said.

Police have been working with local forensic scientists to find any evidence. "We're providing our expertise with regard to that case," said John Williams, a forensic anthropologist at Western Carolina University. He said he could not discuss the case because of his official involvement with authorities.

Waiting

Kelly Smith's father, George Smith, said he's still waiting for the day police have a break in the case and the day he can cremate what is left of his daughter. The body parts have not yet been returned to him, he said.

His daughter was an Erwin High graduate and played the flute in the school band. He remembered her as a bright student who could have done anything in life.

It was two decades ago when she started living on the streets, running into the law on charges of drug possession, theft, forgery and prostitution.

Smith said he's encouraged that police are still working on the case. He hopes he will be able to plan his daughter's funeral soon. "I just keep praying they find something ... the person who did it," he said.

Floating body had hands tied

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24835579-661,00.html>

December 23, 2008 Mark Buttler and Rachel Hewitt

THE body of a man whose hands were tied has been found floating in the Yarra River, the day after he was reported missing.





Kidane Gebrezghi, of St Albans, had not been seen by family for about a week but had been in telephone contact in his final days, police said.

Investigators said Mr Gebrezghi was reported missing by his wife on Sunday.

A harbour patrol vessel found his body yesterday while cruising along a busy shipping channel in the shadows of the West Gate Bridge.

His wallet, containing identification and a small amount of money, was in his trouser pocket when he was found in the water near Pier 35. Homicide detectives and forensic specialists spent hours at the scene yesterday, off Lorimer Rd in Port Melbourne. Police expect the results of an autopsy this morning.

Acting Det Sen-Sgt Wayne Cheesman of the homicide squad said the man's hands had been bound in front of him with a plastic tie. It is not known where he entered the water but his fingers were clasped together and he had a black eye. "We don't know what impact caused that," acting Det Sen-Sgt Cheesman said.

Mr Gebrezghi, a tall, lean man of African descent, was wearing jeans, a checked shirt and a beige vest when he was found at 1.30pm.

Murdered prostitutes worked at same spot

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4801078a11.html>

23 December 2008 By IAN STEWARD - The Press

Murdered Christchurch prostitute Mellory Manning disappeared from the same corner prostitute Suzie Sutherland worked before she was killed in 2005.

Prostitutes say the intersection of Manchester and Peterborough streets, where Manning was last seen alive on Thursday night, is known as a dangerous pick-up spot - short on lighting and lacking the surveillance cameras that protect the central city.

Sutherland was found strangled in a vacant section in Peterborough Street in April 2005. South African immigrant Jule Patrick Burns, 31, was found guilty of murder in 2006 and sentenced to serve at least 17 years in jail.

Ngatai Lynette Manning, known as Mellory, was found in the Avon River in Dallington on Friday morning. She had been attacked with more than one weapon.



Mellory Manning's footwear

Police said yesterday they had narrowed down her movements before her death about 11pm on Thursday. Detective Inspector Greg Williams said a client who had picked up Manning at 9.50pm on Thursday had come forward.

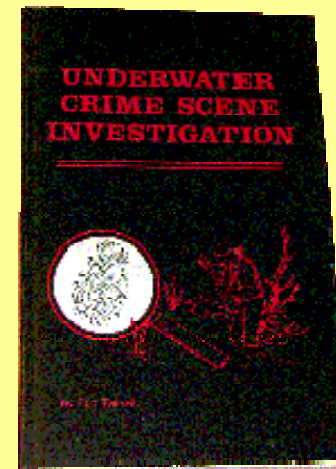
The pair went to an abandoned building in Chester Street East until about 10.20pm, when she was taken back to her corner.

Cellphone tower records showed Manning was "on the move" at 10.40pm and the focus was now on finding the last client, Williams said. People in Dallington Terrace about 11.10pm saw a white car parked on an angle on the grass beside the river close to 72 Dallington Terrace, he said. "This witness also saw a young male mid-20s,

light-brown hair walking along with his hands in his pockets towards McBratneys Road, and a larger car, like a four-wheel-drive or ute, with two males standing beside it, parked close to 43 Dallington Terrace," Williams said. "One of the males is described as wearing camo-patterned, knee-length shorts. We would like to hear from those people, as they might have seen something."

Williams said the Manchester Street-Peterborough Street corner was usually reserved for experienced prostitutes. An 18-year veteran, who wanted to be known only as Yvonne, said the general rule was that the further from town and the closer to Bealey Avenue, the "looser" the workers became. "They tend to be cheaper and wear less, and tend to be under the influence," she said. "A lot of girls down there are doing it for drug habits. If you're on drugs, your wits aren't about

"Underwater Crime Scene Investigation" By Eric Tackett



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you. I try to be stone-cold sober when I come out."

If prostitutes were on drugs, their guard was often lowered, Yvonne said.

"They say `yes' to things they

normally wouldn't. I say `no' to clients all the time." She said the Manchester Street-Peterborough Street corner was known as a dangerous area.

It is thought Manning did not have a minder with her on the night she disappeared, but Yvonne said minders were not always effective. "They're only here to see you leave," she said.

Another prostitute, Rose, said: "At the end of the day, you don't know who you're jumping in the car with". Manning's murder had spooked the city's prostitutes, she said. "There're hardly any girls out, especially after this happened and that Emma (Agnew) chick. You think, `that could be me'," she said.

Williams said an Alltrade pocketknife had been found in the river near where Manning's body was found. He said the knife was not believed to have caused her injuries, but it was undergoing forensic tests.

Her partner had indicated he had not seen the knife before, so police were keen to hear from anyone who may have lost a knife in the vicinity.

Williams said the killer may have stopped using his vehicle. "They might have asked a friend or associate to store it. They might have altered it or changed the tyres," he said.

Williams said the offender would have spent some time in the area before picking up Manning. Meanwhile, police last night released photos of her wearing two sets of footwear -- a pair of black boots and a pair of shoes. Manning was pulled from the river with no shoes. Williams said the person who picked her up and took her into town about 10pm on Thursday saw her change into the boots.

Neither her shoes nor her boots had been found. "We would like to find Mellory's shoes and boots. If you have seen them, please contact us," Williams said.

Driver missing after vehicle runs off pier

<http://www.caller.com/news/2008/dec/27/driver-missing-after-vehicle-runs-off-pier>

By Mike Baird (Contact)
December 27, 2008



Mike Baird/Caller-Times A barricade was placed on the north pier near the Copano Bay causeway on Friday, after police found a vehicle submerged in about 16 feet of water near the end.

A man was missing Friday after he may have driven a vehicle off a pier next to the Copano Bay causeway, authorities said.

Two people reported someone driving recklessly at 1:50 a.m. on the north pier alongside the Copano Bay causeway, said Aransas County Sheriff Bill Mills. Corpus Christi Police Department divers located the submerged Acura 16 feet underwater, and were able to get the license plate number off the car. They did not find anyone inside, Mills said.

The vehicle was registered to an owner in North Carolina, and after speaking with the owner, investigators said the man they believe to have been the driver, a man in his 20s, was originally from Rockport.



**A boat docked at Brown's Bay tipped and took on water. The man who lived aboard is missing.
Photograph by: CHEK TV News**

The owner of the car said the driver had not called, and police consider him missing, Mills said. "We don't know if he escaped, or was washed away by the current," he said.

Mills would not release the man's name pending notification of his family, and would not say what the relationship was between the driver and the owner. Authorities continued Friday to interview people who knew the driver.

Man missing after snow-covered boat tips at Campbell River dock

<http://www.timescolonist.com/missing+after+snow+covered+boat+tips+Campbell+River+dock/1119277/story.html>

December 27, 2008

A 64-year-old Campbell River man was missing Saturday after his boat apparently tipped and took on water while docked at Brown's Bay Friday night. Campbell River RCMP say the man lived aboard the boat with his dog. The dog was removed from the listing vessel and taken in by the first coast guard officer who arrived at the scene.

But as of Saturday night, the man had not been located, despite an extensive search of the shoreline with the help of a police dog. RCMP said they found a number of boats listing in the water under the weight of more than a metre of snow at the docks.

Police divers were called in to help with the search.

Family Thinks Woman Jumped From Cruise Ship

<http://www.wftv.com/news/18374555/detail.html>

Monday, December 29, 2008 **VIDEO ON SITE**

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. -- Search crews ended their efforts Monday afternoon to find a Central Florida woman who disappeared from a cruise ship at sea. Meanwhile, her family issued a statement suggesting she committed suicide.

An HU-25 Falcon jet crew from Coast Guard Air Station Miami, C-130 fixed-wing aircraft crews from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Fla., and Mexican navy patrol boat and helicopter crews searched more than 4,200 square miles for Seitz. The search was called off around 3:00pm Monday.

AT THE SCENE: [Images Of Woman, Cruise Ship](#)

"The Coast Guard and Mexican navy conducted an exhaustive search for Jennifer Seitz, but have not located her," said Capt. Dean Lee, Seventh Coast Guard District chief of staff. "Our thoughts are with Jennifer Seitz's family and friends during this difficult time."

Investigators said surveillance video shows a woman falling overboard from the Norwegian Pearl on Christmas night. The video has not been released.

The family of the missing cruise ship passenger said Monday that they suspect the woman "chose an unfortunate ending to her life" and jumped from a cruise

ship balcony into the waters off Mexico's coast on Christmas night. "Jennifer was in a very happy and uplifted mood both before and during the cruise," the Ellis family said in the statement. "She was excited about starting a new job and her future career with a local newspaper. She and her husband had been talking about starting their family.

The family suspects that Jennifer chose an unfortunate ending to her life. She was a beautiful and caring person and will be truly missed by all who love her." Seitz and her husband, Raymond, were celebrating their one-year anniversary on the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship.

Jennifer Seitz, 36, a former Florida Today reporter who lived in Winter Haven, was reported missing the next morning and now the FBI is questioning passengers to try to figure out what happened.

Eyewitness News has learned the missing woman's marriage may have been on the rocks before she vanished. Her husband, Ray Seitz, was arrested in April for domestic violence arrest and the



arrest affidavit says he admitted to head butting his wife. The charge was dropped after he entered a pretrial diversion program. Records show that she asked the prosecutor not to pursue the case. "It's an on-going FBI investigation. We're in charge of crimes on the high seas of American citizens and that is what we are doing right now. We're looking for evidence," said Capt. Dean Lee, Miami Coast Guard.

It was early Friday morning when Seitz's husband reported her missing, no where to be found aboard the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship steaming towards the Caribbean. He reported it eight hours after Jennifer went overboard, according to one of the ship's more than 1,000 surveillance cameras. "They eventually discovered on some recorded tape the image of a woman going overboard wearing a white bathrobe sometime around 8:00 the previous evening. That would have been on Christmas night," Capt. Lee said.

It's very disturbing news to fellow passengers who disembarked from the seven-day cruise Sunday. Witnesses had stories to share, including new details. The Seitzs were vacationing with Jennifer's mother and they took part in a cruise activity in front of a crowd playing the newlywed game. "They seemed like they're pretty fun and stuff, pretty wild if anything," passenger Austin Stovall said.

In Winter Haven, neighbors of Jennifer Seitz said they were shocked and saddened to hear she had disappeared from the cruise ship. "That's really sad. I feel awful, I

would feel awful if it happened to my daughter," said neighbor Kathy Hoyt.

A close friend of the family said Seitz and her husband lived with her mother in a home on Knotty Pine Drive. Seitz's mother rushed to Miami as soon as she was notified.

It was the sixth time this year crews have searched for someone who went overboard from a cruise ship.

Previous Stories:

December 29, 2008: [Central Florida Woman Disappears From Cruise Ship](#)

December 26, 2008: [Cruise Passenger Reported Overboard Near Cancun](#)

Father And Son Find Skull In Canal

<http://www.wftv.com/news/18373782/detail.html>

Monday, December 29, 2008

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. -- Authorities say a father and son fishing at a Coral Springs canal pulled up what appeared to be a human skull.



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The pair made the find Friday morning in a residential neighborhood. The Broward Medical Examiner's Office is analyzing the object to see if it really is a skull. If that's the case, authorities will try to match it to bones found in the same canal in July 2001. Those bones were found by a maintenance crew that was clearing out a pipe.

Investigators determined the bones likely belonged to a black man who was in his 20s or 30s, but they could not identify him. They also could not determine how long the bones had been there or how the man died.

Breakthrough hope in Norfolk murder

<http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&tBrand=edponline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED28%20Dec%202008%2017%3A18%3A56%3A830>

29 December 2008 **BEN KENDALL**

Detectives say advances in forensic technology could lead to a crucial breakthrough in the 16-year-old investigation into the murder of Norfolk girl Natalie Pearman.

A laboratory is currently re-examining a DNA profile taken from the teenager's body when it was discovered partially

clothed and dumped in woodland at Ringland Hills, on the edge of Norwich in 1992.

If she had lived Natalie, from

Mundesley, who was 16 when she was killed, would have celebrated her 33rd birthday on Christmas Day.

Officers have always possessed a full DNA profile of the man they suspect strangled her to death. But there is no direct match on the national database and investigators have been forced to bide their time, hoping the man will be arrested for another offence so a link can be established. But ground-breaking improvements in analysis techniques mean the sample retrieved from Natalie's body could now be matched to the profile of anybody related to the killer. This means police could trace the suspect through family members who are on the database for offences as minor as a drink driving or petty theft.

It relies on similar technology to that used to catch the killer of murdered model Rachel Nickell. Broadmoor patient Robert Napper pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility earlier this month after forensic science finally caught up with him.

Det Supt Chris Hoble, from Norfolk police's major investigations team (MIT), said: "What this basically does



Natalie Pearman - forensic advances could find her killer

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is widen our net. In the past it has been said that if the killer puts a foot wrong and somehow ends up on the DNA database, we will catch them. Now the same applies to any member of his family.

“If anybody with a linked DNA profile is currently on the database or is placed on it in the future, we will be able to systematically work through the family tree until we have an exact match and identify the killer.

“We are constantly looking at ways new technology can be applied to cold cases and, although there is never any guarantee we will get a successful prosecution, we feel there is a realistic prospect that this could provide the clue we have been waiting for.”

Natalie grew up in a loving home but was described as a “rebellious teenager”. At the time of her death she was working as a prostitute in Norwich’s red light district. Recreational drug use spiralled into addiction.

She was found dead on November 20, 1992, after a lorry driver taking a short cut through Ringland Hills spotted what he thought was a bundle of clothes in a lay-by. Pathology showed she had been strangled to death.

Her mother, Lin Pearman, who still lives at Mundesley, has never given up hope that police will finally crack the case. She has been informed of the latest line of inquiry.

As she had another festive family gathering without Natalie, she told

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the EDP: “The DNA advances give us hope. And it is wonderful that the Major Investigations Team is spending time on her case. It shows Natalie has not been forgotten after 16 years, and I am sure other families in the same situation as us feel the same. “But if we had an automatic nationwide DNA database we would not need cold case teams.”

Mrs Pearman said the first thing she did on Christmas day was to say “Happy birthday Natalie” and later visited her grave to say a private hello, but otherwise tried not to let it intrude on the day for the sake of the rest of the family - two brothers and two sisters. In a previous interview she said: “There is the hope that we would know a little more about the reason why she died and that the person who did it would be brought to justice and would not be able to do it again. Whoever has done it has been leading a normal life and we have been paying the penalty for it.”

Det Insp Jez Fry is currently reviewing the existing forensic evidence. Once his work is complete the results will be passed to the MIT cold cases team. The team is made up of specialist investigators who will sift through evidence gathered at the time and look for new lines of inquiry.

The force has a list of cold cases which are being systematically worked through after the team was set up last year. Supervisor Tony Deacon said: “We will come to each case in turn. It is impossible to say how long each will take; some will be relatively quick

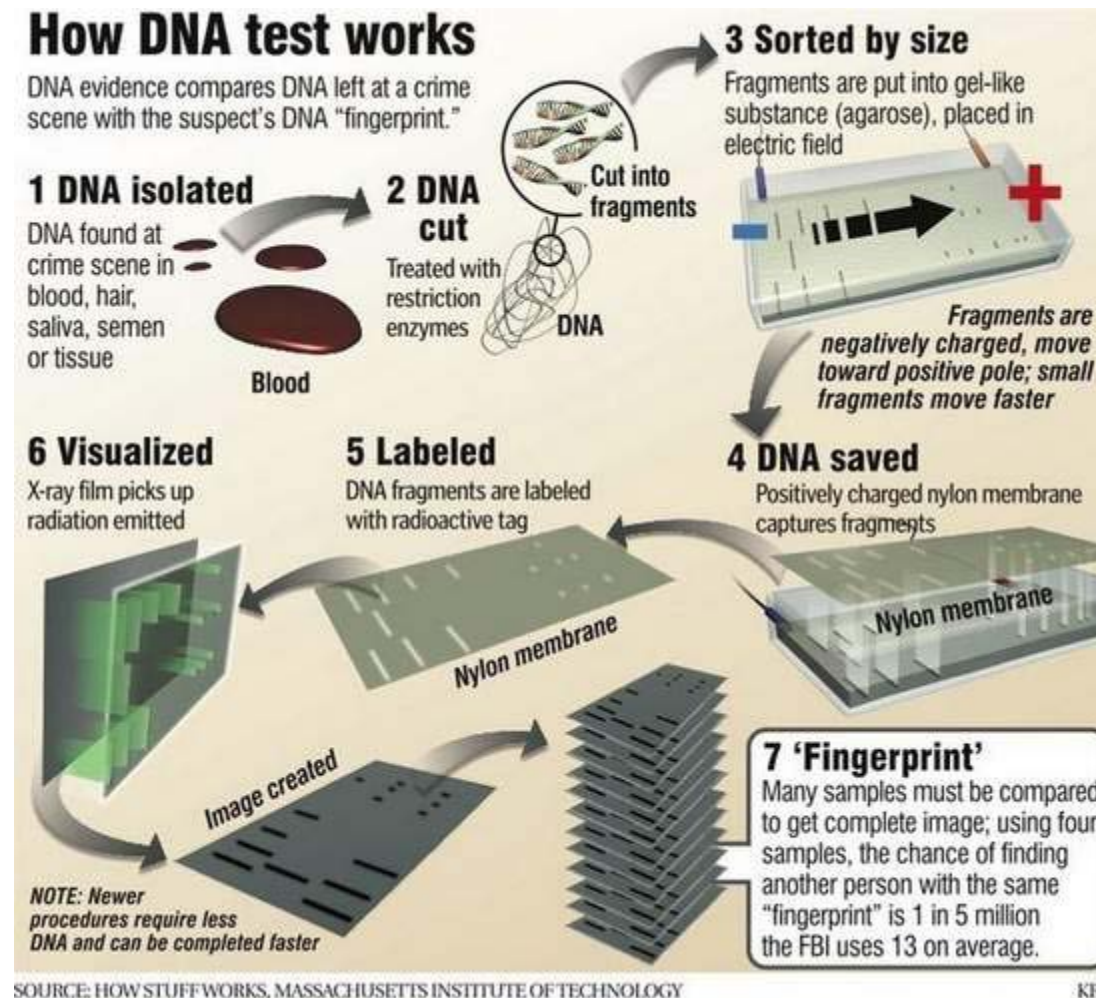
whereas others will take much longer."

The team is currently continuing its investigation into the discovery of a headless woman at Cockley Cley in 1974. However, they will turn to Natalie's murder once all lines of inquiry have been exhausted in the Cockley Cley case - or if there is a prospect of an immediate breakthrough in the Pearman investigation.

Mr Hobley said: "We have maintained contact with the families of all the victims of cold case murders. We are careful to communicate any potential developments but we have to manage expectations. "No case is ever dead as far as we are concerned and we will be contacting each family as and when we return to their case."

Forensics work helps solve crimes

<http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/artikkel?&Dato=20081228&Kategori=CRIME&Lopenr=81228032&Ref=AR>
December 28, 2008 By Rachel Myers



Throughout the 1990s, police work was revolutionized by the advancement of forensic science.

Decades-old cold cases were being solved. Convicts were exonerated. A hit television show, "C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation," first aired in 2000, sparking even further nationwide interest in the evolution of crime solving.

"Big cases have been made with DNA," said Capt. Ron Curtis, head of the Lee County Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit. "New cases, cold cases — it's really

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changed everything in law enforcement.”

Most local agencies rely heavily on the seven labs of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which offers free DNA and other forensic results through the state.

But during the past several years, the system began to bog down: So many samples were being submitted, and millions of dollars were cut from the agency’s budget. The resulting backlog caused turnaround times to crawl, spurring some agencies to turn to privately held, though more expensive, facilities.

Curtis said the situation at FDLE has since improved, especially after FDLE opened a Fort Myers forensic lab in February. In addition, Trena Reddick, FDLE spokeswoman, said the agency has secured millions of dollars in federal grants to purchase newer equipment, allowed more overtime for analysts, implemented new guidelines for case management and launched pilot programs with local agencies to pre-screen DNA evidence

before it’s submitted for FDLE analysis.

Still, local agencies will go to private labs if they need a special kind of test or quick results. So far this year in Lee County, about \$57,500 has been spent on farming out samples to private labs.

Earlier this year, the sheriff’s office also opened its own \$9 million forensics center in Fort Myers, where forensic scientists conduct fingerprint testing, limited firearms tests, forensic artwork and digital forensics. But Capt. Richard Joslin, commander of forensics, said it could be years — if ever — before the county adds its own DNA testing lab. “If it gets to a point where it would be more economical and efficient to do it ourselves, we’ll look into it,” Joslin said. “But right now, the way we’re doing it is working well.”

Man shoots at FPD officer

Thames, 34, was involved in 2-state, high speed chase

<http://www.andalusiastarnews.com/news/2008/dec/30/man-shoots-fpd-officer/>
December 30, 2008 By Stephanie Nelson Andalusia Star-News

A Florida man has been charged with the attempted murder of a law enforcement officer following a weekend incident in which he is accused of shooting at a police officer while fleeing a traffic stop.

Michael "Red" Thames, 34, was jailed Monday on charges of attempted murder of a law enforcement officer and shooting into an occupied vehicle after he allegedly led a Florala police officer on a two-state, high-speed pursuit Saturday.



Florala Chief Sonny Bedsole said officer John Davis attempted to pull Thames over for a minor traffic infraction before the pursuit began. "It was about 8:45 p.m. Saturday and Officer Davis went to make a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Z71 because the driver was spinning the tires on the vehicle," Bedsole said. "That was when the pursuit ensued and it was a high speed chase that led out of Florala on Still Pond Road. It was then Officer Davis called out a shot had been fired at the patrol car."

Bedsole said the pursuit continued out County Road 4, or the Wing Highway, and over into Florida near Laurel Hill. Davis terminated the pursuit once he lost sight of the vehicle, Bedsole said. "Once the pursuit ended, the car was examined and the mark on the windshield indicated it had been struck by an object," Bedsole said.

Sunday, the car was sent to the Alabama Department of Forensic Science in Montgomery where tests indicated lead fragments were embedded in the windshield, he said. On the same morning, Thames turned himself in to the Florala Police Department and was issued a host of traffic citations.

By Monday, a warrant was obtained for Thames' arrest based on the information received from the ADFS, Bedsole said. "There was a statement made by Thames where he apologized to Officer Davis (for fleeing) because he thought that (Davis) was a trooper," Bedsole said. "He said he had to pay several hundred dollars in fines and openly admitted he was fleeing from the officer. Additionally, he admitted he'd had a six pack of beer, but at this time, we don't believe alcohol was a factor in the incident."

Bedsole said a meeting was scheduled between himself, agents with the 22nd Circuit Drug Task Force and Thames, at which Thames was taken into custody. Currently, he is being held in the Covington County Jail on a \$300,000 bond. "(The Florala Police Department is) going to handle things professionally and with respect, but public safety is our primary mission," Bedsole said. "It is of paramount importance to us in Florala, and we will not tolerate anyone firing a weapon at a police officer or any of our citizens."

The case is still under investigation by the FPD, DTF, ADFS and the Andalusia Police Department.

SHARED LESSONS

Bomb Expert's Death Leaves Many Questions

http://www.policelink.com/news/articles/79528-bomb-experts-death-leaves-many-questions?referral=pl_nlet_20081219u

December 18, 2008 AP via YellowBrix

PORTLAND, Ore.

(AP) — By all accounts, Bill Hakim was one of those solid cops with plenty of experience and sound judgment who other police officers depend on to make a tough decision, especially on the bomb squad.

It makes his death in a bomb explosion at a small town bank all the more shocking and puzzling to the law enforcement community he served as a senior trooper for the Oregon State Police.

Hakim, 51, was killed Friday while he was handling what he believed to be a hoax bomb at the West Coast Bank branch in Woodburn, a farming town of about 23,000 just south of Portland.

Also killed was Woodburn police Capt. Tom Tennant, who was apparently holding the green metal box that contained the bomb. The city's police chief, Scott Russell,



Trooper Bill Hakim

lost a leg and was critically injured, while a bank employee was hit by shrapnel that imbedded in the bone of her leg.

Police made quick arrests, charging 32-year-old Joshua Turnidge and his 57-year-old father, Bruce Turnidge, with aggravated murder. No motive has been revealed so far. State police officials have deferred any comment on the case until after a multiagency investigation is completed, followed by an independent review assisted by federal agencies. "That will tell us what happened and why, and whether there are any lessons learned that could be helpful to all bomb technicians nationwide and not just our department," said Lt. Gregg Hastings, state police spokesman.

Several bomb experts said they did not want to second-guess decisions by Hakim, but they agreed it was unusual to conclude a potential bomb was harmless following the visual and X-ray inspection the trooper made. "It's definitely a hands-off approach, and send in the robot nowadays," said Hal Lowder, who retired as a fire and explosion investigator with the Metro Atlanta Fire Department.

He noted that X-ray inspection is not always conclusive, and it is difficult to



Issue 53 Summer '08

Emergency Response

Accidents by Ivan Hansen

Mud/Debris flow by Larry

Collins

Immersion Hypothermia

Part I by Sean Johnson

Gear Reviews & MORE!

<http://t-rescue.com>

visually detect many explosive materials. "You really can't tell," Lowder said. "That thing could be full of sand, Play-Doh or TNT."



The Oregon State Police have declined to say why their Explosive Ordnance Disposal truck, relatively new equipment acquired in 2006, was not at the scene with its bomb-detection tools, robots, protective suits and a containment vessel.

Lowder said bomb disposal robots typically have water cannons, shotgun shells to act as detonators, and clawed arms to manipulate a suspected bomb. The only reason to handle a potential bomb is immediate danger to people nearby, such as a large crowd, he said. "The days of movie heroes like Bruce Willis sweating it out and trying to decide which wire to cut are gone and never really happened anyway," Lowder said.

It now appears Hakim was planning to dismantle what he thought was a fake in order to gather evidence.

A hoax device had been planted at a nearby Wells Fargo bank, which was inspected by Hakim and an FBI bomb expert before they found the other device.

Jimmie Oxley, a University of Rhode Island chemistry professor and explosives expert, said it is common for a bomber to plant a phony device to test police reaction. "There are no absolutes in this," she said. "You can understand why they might have thought the second was a fake if it was similar to the first."

There have been no details about the Woodburn bomb or the materials it may have contained, only the indication it was extremely powerful.

LeRon Howland, former Oregon State Police superintendent, said he was the one who presented Hakim his certificate when he graduated from its training division to start his career in 1997. "I remember the smile on his face and how proud he was to become part of the state police family," Howland said.

Like other law enforcement veterans, Howland said he was surprised by the bombing deaths, especially because Hakim was regarded as "one of the best in the business" who was trained in explosives in the Navy.

If you would like to join our writing team or work with our Continuing Education Editor, email us at PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

SPONSOR NEWS

PRESS RELEASE DEC 2008

SHARK MARINE TECHNOLOGIES has received the Niagara Chamber of Commerce Innovation and Technology award for 2008.



The Gala Celebration of Business Excellence Oct 30 2008 was a night to remember. Twelve awards were bestowed on local businesses for their various entrepreneurial achievements. In the category for Technology the finalists were The Hotel Dieu Shaver, Health & Rehabilitation Center, Shark Marine Technologies and Strategem. The award this year was sponsored by Silicon Knights a gaming software company based in Niagara.

Shark Marine was chosen for the developments and industry leadership in new technologies for underwater security, search and rescue and safety.

While owners Jim and Wendy Garrington were in Paris attending Euronaval, employee Ron Roberge accepted the award on their behalf. "This award recognizes the achievements of not just the management of Shark Marine Technologies, but the



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contribution of all of our staff. Without the team we have built we would not be where we are today. We are all proud to serve the men and women that protect our nations and hope that the small part we play is making a difference and helping to save lives."

L-3 Klein Introduces System 3000H Side Scan Sonar to Market

L-3 Klein Associates, Inc. located in Salem, New Hampshire, released its latest digital Side Scan Sonar, the System 3000H. In response to our customer and market demand the System 3000H combines the capabilities of L-3 Klein's most popular, best selling System 3000 Side Scan Sonar, with the capabilities of L-3 Klein's Model 3900 Search & Recovery System. The System 3000H Side Scan Sonar brings to market the field proven capabilities of the System 3000 which allows interfaces for use with a magnetometer, pressure sensor and acoustic positioning with the added capability of higher resolution imaging with selectable frequencies of 445 kHz and 900kHz.

If you would like any additional information on the System 3000H or any of the L-3 Klein product offerings, please feel free to contact us at (603) 893-6131 or feel free to log onto our web site at www.L-3Klein.com.

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

How Did He Do It?

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/criminal_mind/forensics/underwater_forensics/2.html By Katherine Ramsland

In 1914, **Margaret Lloyd** died in her bath in Highgate, England. A relative of the victim of a similar drowning also previously married to Lloyd's widower, George Joseph Smith, spotted Lloyd's obituary and brought the matter to the police. An investigation uncovered Smith's criminal record, revealing that he had not only married Margaret Lloyd under an assumed name but had actually married three times, and each of his wives in turn had drowned in her bath. Despite the vanishingly small possibility that this had been coincidence, it seemed unlikely that someone could have assaulted the women in their bathtubs without a fierce struggle. Yet there had been no mark of violence on any of the bodies.

Smith was arrested, and a rising young pathologist, Bernard Spilsbury, supervised the exhumations of Smith's two previous wives for autopsy. Studying the first woman's remains, Spilsbury decided that



Forensic model of the murder scene

"gooseflesh" on her skin indicated she had died suddenly, and her organs showed no defect or disease that might have killed her. Smith's attorney claimed she had experienced an epileptic fit, but Spilsbury was determined to prove something more nefarious had occurred.

He dismissed the possibility that the five-foot-seven woman could have suffered a fit in a five-foot-long tub that would have placed her head under water, but he wanted to demonstrate how she might have died by homicide without a sign of struggle. With Detective Inspector Arthur Neil Young, he devised an experiment to explore the possibilities.

Several women agreed to don bathing outfits, sit in a bathtub similar to the one in Smith's home, and allow Young to try to drown them. After repeated failures, the feat seemed impossible without an incredible struggle. But then the detective deduced the answer: Smith had killed them by suddenly raising their knees into the air, which pulled their heads down and rendered them helpless to the rush of water. In fact, as the procedure was performed in front of a jury, the female participant went unconscious at once and had to be revived. It was a convincing show, which paid off. Since Smith had benefited financially from all three



George Joseph Smith

deaths, his motive was clear. Within twenty minutes, the "Brides in the Bath Killer" was convicted. In 1915 he was hanged for it. Since that time, investigations about deaths in water have come a long way.

Visit www.TruTv.com

Incident Management Systems

The Incident Management Systems Integration (IMSI) Division just announced the following updates:

The finalized NIMS – **DECEMBER 2008** - has been released and can be accessed at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtml>

The Credentialing Guideline has been posted to the Federal Register and can be accessed at:

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=09000064807e68fa>

The Intelligence/Investigation Function Guide has been posted to the Federal Register and can be accessed at: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

These links have also been posted to the NIMS Working Groups Team Sites.

National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

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

[Near-Miss Reporting System - Report Number 06-0000126](#) During water rescue, the submerged diver located victim. When the diver surfaced, he became entangled in his search line, dislodging his regulator

[Near-Miss Reporting System - Report Number 08-0000434](#) We were practicing search patterns, rescue the rescue diver, and finding a body (rescue dummy) in the water. ... The event involved me and a new diver to the team.

[Near-Miss Reporting System - Report Number 08-0000611](#) I stated to him that I was a diver called in from home and that I was checking in. ... We were briefed that the car was located by the last diver.

[Near-Miss Reporting System - Report Number 07-0000962](#) While performing a training dive from a boat, the diver's line became entangled in bottom of the anchor line that was being used as a swivel for circular dive

[Near-Miss Reporting System - Report Number 05-0000326](#) Both divers were without air for approximately a minute +/- . Neither diver suffered any serious injuries. Both were treated on scene by paramedics.

EVENTS

16th HYPACK® Hydrographic Training Conference.

The HYPACK® 2009 Training Conference will be held January 12 - 14, 2009 at the [San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina](#) in San Diego, CA overlooking the San Diego Bay.

*L-3 Klein Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce that we will be exhibiting at the **2009 HYPACK Conference & Exhibition** being held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina from **11-14 January 2009**.*

*Please stop by the **L-3 Klein Booth #2** to see the latest in Side Scan and Multi-Beam Sonar sensor technology. We will be showcasing our High Resolution, Dynamically Focused, System 5000 V2 Multi-Beam Side Scan Sonar System. This system is ideal for detection of extremely small mine like objects, Q-Route Surveys, Port and Harbor Security, Hydrographic Surveys, Geophysical surveys, and Pipeline and Offshore surveys. An AUV version of this system is also now available.*

L-3 Klein will also be conducting In-Water Demonstrations of the System 5000 V2 on January 12-13th. Please stop by our booth for more information and to register. There is limited space on the boat, so reservations

will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

We will also have information available on our System 3900 Search & Recovery Sonar System. The System 3900 is an extremely high resolution digital sonar for use in Search and Recovery missions which require a portable side scan system. The model is a selectable dual-frequency system with 445 kHz, which offers excellent range and resolution, and 900 kHz, which offers higher resolution of identified targets



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[Rock Hill, SC - January 20-23, 2009](#)

[California - March 24-27, 2009](#)

**Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
45th Annual Forensic Dental Identification and
Emerging Technologies**

March 30, 2009 - April 03, 2009



LOCATION: The course will be held at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel, Rockville, Maryland. Rooms have been reserved at a special reduced rate of \$209 for a single/double or the

prevailing government per diem until 14 February 2009.
Reservations received after this date will be filled on a space available basis. When contacting the hotel to make your reservation, inform them that you are attending the **Forensic Dental Identification and Emerging Technologies Course.**

HILTON WASHINGTON DC/ROCKVILLE HOTEL

1750 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852
Tel: (301) 468-1100 Toll free: (800) 222-8733

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a 5-day course designed to include lectures and workshops. The course is open to both civilians and military.

The primary focus of the course is to expose the experienced forensic scientists, and to introduce the novice, to state-of-the-art techniques for forensic endeavors, with an emphasis on mass disaster and dental identification. Speakers from diverse organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Army, National Museum of Health and Medicine and various universities across the nation are featured. The laboratory session integrates digital radiology, photographic capture and computer database with a mock mass disaster identification exercise. Other laboratories include bitemark analysis, skeletal anthropology, and radiographic age assessment.

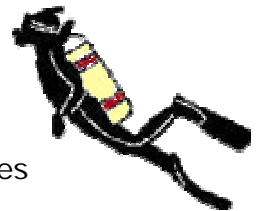
The primary emphasis of the course is forensic odontology; however, overviews of allied disciplines are provided to complete attendees' knowledge base.

PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education

	<p>ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.</p>
<p>The 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.</p>	

PSDM-CE-57

- 1) Forensics is a specialized task and should only be performed by trained forensics specialists.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2) D.N.A. is the acronym for:
 - a. Dynamic Monitoring of Air
 - b. Diabetic Naturalizing Additives
 - c. Divers Needing Assistance
 - d. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 3) The main role of DNA molecules is:
 - a. Long term storage of information



- b. To identify positive and negative ions
 - c. To define a process of collection evaluation
 - d. Change color when subject to dyes.
- 4) Chemically, DNA consists of 2 long _____ of simple units called _____
- a. polymers, nucleotides
 - b. Ions, Protein
 - c. Cells, compartments
 - d. Tubes, cells
- 5) DNA backbones are comprised of:
- a. Rigid strands of cellulose
 - b. Plasma
 - c. Fiber strands of tissue
 - d. Sugars and phosphates
- 6) DNA backbones are bonded by
- a. Muscles
 - b. Ligaments
 - c. Attraction
 - d. Ester
- 7) Within in cells DNA is organized into structures called:
- a. Layers
 - b. Chromosomes
 - c. Prokaryotes
 - d. Tissue
- 8) The largest human chromosome is called
- a. Chromosome 1
 - b. Testosterone
 - c. Double Helix
 - d. Pentose
- 9) DNA is only applicable to human cells:
- a. True
 - b. False
- 10) DNA can be damaged by _____.
- a. Heredity
 - b. Aromatic intercalators
 - c. Mutagens
 - d. Age
- 11) When a cell divides it must replicate _____ in its _____:
- a. Sugars, Carbohydrates
 - b. Enzyme, Protons
 - c. Exactly, but in half size
 - d. DNA, Genome
- 12) Forensic Scientists can use _____ to identify a perpetrator.
- a. Blood, semen, skin, saliva, hair
 - b. Blood or saliva only
 - c. Skin or hair only
 - d. None of the above

Please send comments and questions for CE's to Chuck Elgin (wurinc@aol.com)

TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- How might Forensic Odontology relate to your team? What might you reasonably expect to locate, how would you document and preserve it (them)
- If during a search, underwater or topside, a team member finds something that is suspected to be an explosive device, discuss the actions, procedures, policies and options that **MUST** be available to the dive team.
- Your team finds a victim and discover both hands are tied to a large weight. Water depth is 40' and there is no safe way to float the weight. The rope must be cut. Discuss what might be done to protect all the potential forensic evidence contained in and on the rope and knots.
- Your team discovers parts of a dismembered body. Discuss the methodology and preservation techniques your team will use to preserve forensic evidence during the collection process.
- Contact your local homicide division and Medical Examiner. Arrange a meeting / class in order to confirm that your methodology is reasonable AND complete.
- **PRACTICE** what you discuss!



This Made Us Laugh!

From Dominique - **Uncle Jay Explains 2008**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWiXy55OHyY>



<http://unclejayeexplains.com/>

From John M. - **Little Red Fire Wagon**

A firefighter was working on the engine outside the station, when he noticed a little girl nearby in a little red wagon with little ladders hung off the sides, and a garden hose tightly coiled in the middle.

The girl was wearing a firefighter's helmet. The wagon was being pulled by her dog and her cat. The firefighter walked over to take a closer look. 'That sure is a nice fire truck,' the firefighter said with admiration. 'Thanks,' the girl replied. The firefighter looked a little closer.

The fireman noticed the girl had tied the wagon to her dog's collar and to the cat's testicles... 'Little partner,' the firefighter said, 'I don't want to tell you how to run your rig, but if you were to tie that rope around the cat's collar, I think you could go faster.'

The little girl replied thoughtfully, 'You're probably right, but then I wouldn't have a siren.'

**Join our PSDiver and Water Rescue Discussion
Group at:**

(Just click the link or copy and paste the url into your
browser.)

[Public Safety Divers Forum](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum)

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