



PSDiver Monthly

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June 2010

Dedicated to the expanding knowledge of Underwater Crime Scene Investigation

DOCUMENTATION

What Will You Say?

by Mark Phillips

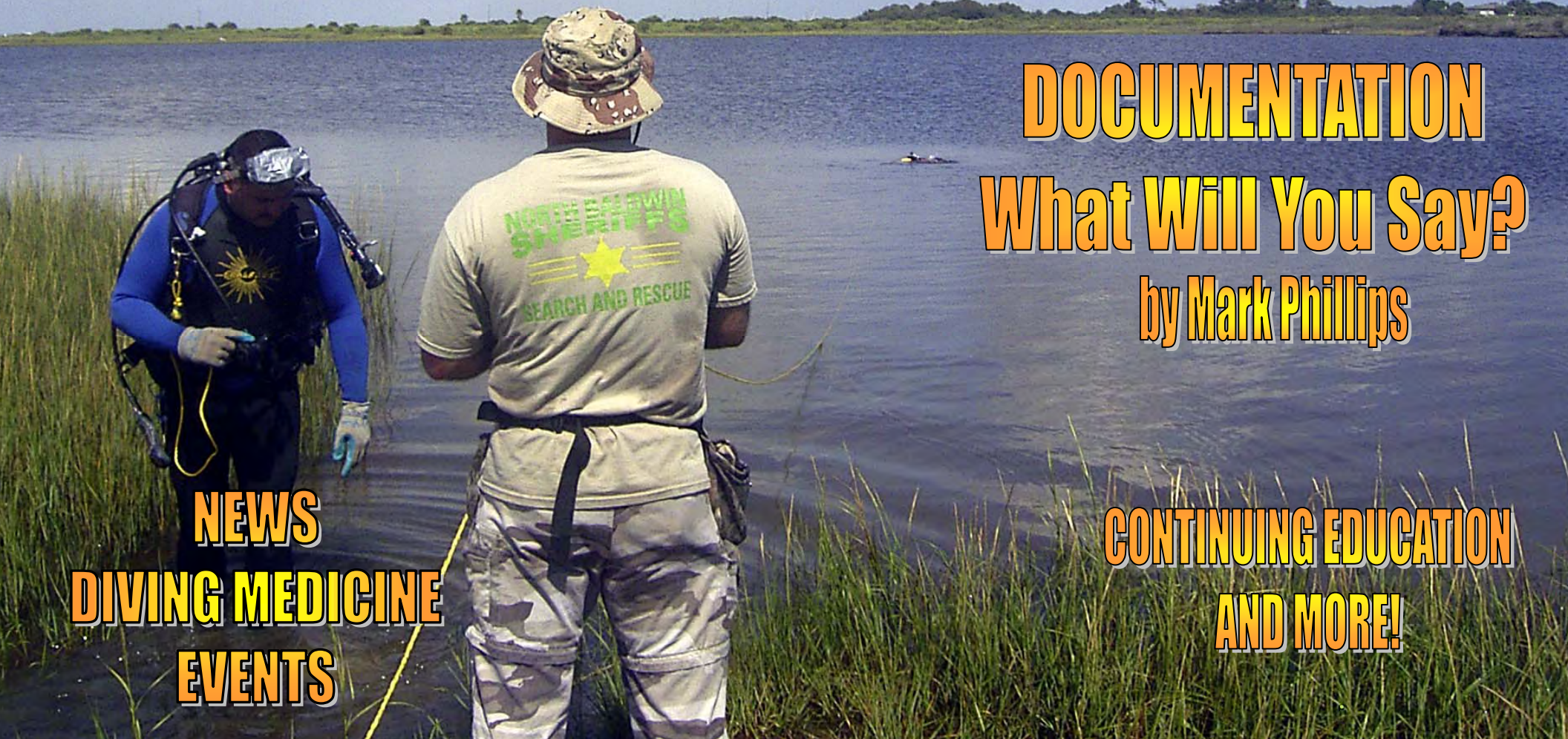
NEWS

DIVING MEDICINE

EVENTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

AND MORE!



Greetings,

For two months I ranted about the media coverage and the response to the BP spill. I think the mainstream media has finally caught up with us. While still very newsworthy, I will quit my rant on the subject. But I do so with this reminder: we need the media to be friendly to our teams and departments and in our present economy cannot afford to make an enemy of any media outlet. But at the same time, we must protect ourselves, teams and municipality departments and agencies from inaccurate, inconsistent or sensationalistic reporting.

In this issue I have included some of the Letters to the Editor that I received recently. While I do receive subscriber email I do not often include a Letters to the Editor column because I see no reason to publish the "Thanks, Good Job" letters. Those letters are very welcome and very much appreciated but I do not usually publish them. I think if you have an issue with something, this magazine should offer you an opportunity to express an opinion. However, unlike our discussion group, I do reserve the right to censure or edit what goes out publically in the magazine. That does not mean we will not have conversation or that I will print an

edited version of your letter without your knowledge.

But you have to write. I like hearing from you.

I have also been asked if I would consider adding a Classified Ad Section to the magazine. I have thought about doing this in the past but never followed through.

So now I leave that up to you. Do you want a Classified Ad section added to the magazine?

Keep in mind that there will be a cost. But I think classifieds could provide teams the opportunity to exchange unused gear, sell off older gear, or even find other useful items, merchandise or training opportunities.

I will conduct an email poll to make the final decision.

If you want a Classified Ad section, [Click here](#)

If you do **NOT** want a Classified Ad section, [Click Here](#)

It is HOT in my part of the world and heat injuries are a fact of life for us. Watch your selves and your team members.

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Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
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SPECIAL to PSDiver Monthly

What will you say?

By Mark Phillips

In the classes I teach I continually stress the need for documentation. I am questioned on occasion as to why.

Over the years I have just assumed that people performing the work we do automatically do paperwork and even though I know better, the question still catches me by surprise.

In not so distant days, a call might be made for a dive team to come look for a car, a weapon or a body. The dive team would arrive, get geared up and go look around. Sometimes they used a line and a definitive search pattern, sometimes they just all got in the water and swam around.

If one of them found what they were looking for, they would float, drag or tow it to shore. There might be High 5's all around and the local LEO would take over and the divers would go home.

That was an acceptable practice. But it was only acceptable because they did not know any better.

Times have changed.

Professional Training Agencies like Dive Rescue International, Public Safety Diving Association, Life Guard Systems and Emergency Response

Divers International have worked to educate dive teams.

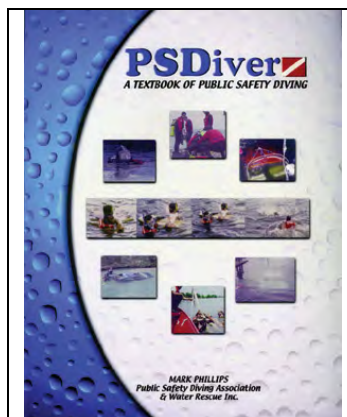
As screwed up as they are, even the National Incident Management System managed to recognize that we are more than just divers. But I dare you to find a fire department dive team listed in NIMS Resource Typing. And if and when you do find one, I challenge you to compare what you do as a fire service dive team to the description you read.

If you are a Public Safety Diver, you are identifying yourself in the most generic way possible. What do you do as a diver that improves or protects the safety of the public? The best I have ever been able to come up with is that our divers can pick up trash, bottles and cans from the public swim areas.

If we do repair to a municipal dock or boat ramp – it is a commercial dive. If we recover a stolen vehicle it is a commercial dive. If we follow the exact ruling of the OSHA exemption, if we recover a body – it is a commercial dive! You can argue against this all you want; I will respect both your opinion and your ability to be wrong.

What follows is MY opinion and does NOT reflect the opinion of any agency. It is not a legal opinion nor should it be used to justify anything you do.

We have fallen under a whole new gray area of the OSHA exemption. Unless we are performing a rescue, we DO fall under the OSHA Commercial Diving Standard. But because we do what we do, and as long as we only do what



**PSDiver – A
Textbook for Public
Safety Diving
By Mark Phillips**

~ An introduction to
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we do regarding recovery of vehicles, small boats, weapons and bodies, we are not on the OSHA radar. But what we DO has very little to do with diving to improve, enhance or qualify the safety of the public we serve.

What we DO is recovery evidence. A vehicle is evidence. A weapon is evidence. A body is evidence. Anything the local LE asks us to dive for is evidence. So when you go on a call to perform an evidence recovery, what exactly are you doing that causes you to identify yourself as a Public Safety Diver? We use that term because in 1999 – it was the best thing we had heard and gave us a common identity to describe what we did.

Skin diver magazine first came out in 1952. Throughout the majority of the life of Skin Diver magazine, divers - all divers - were referred to as Skin Divers. In 1960, the editor of the magazine explained the term in great detail and ended his article with "*Whether underwater for commercial reasons or for pleasure, whether using snorkel or lung or both, we all fall under the general term SKIN DIVER and so it was for this reason that SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE was so named ... to represent ALL underwater enthusiasts*".

And similarly, we call ourselves Public Safety Divers.

But we perform evidence recovery. If we recover evidence we are more closely related to the NIMS Resource Typing that describes Police Diver.

I have written a number of articles in the past

including one describing "The CSI Effect". This effect describes juries as being more aware of forensics and crime scene terminology. So many TV shows have introduced the general public to this field we must be aware and cautious with what we do.

What makes the difference between diving the old ways and diving to recover evidence today?

Awareness and documentation.

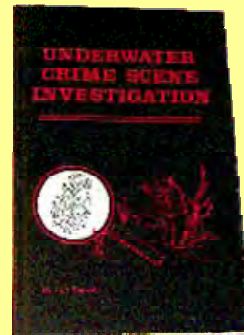
If you have read only this article, you have no more excuse for no or poor documentation. You have been targeted and identified as an evidence recovery diver. As a consequence, from this point on when you are called to a dive you must recognize that everything you did and everything you touched is a part of an extraordinarily large puzzle. You do not get to put it together. You do not get to see the picture on the box. You do not even get to see it once it is finished. You get to provide a very tiny but extraordinarily important piece of the puzzle. Your piece may be so important that if you mess it up, the puzzle will never be able to be completed.

Since we now recognize that we are gathering, preserving and recovering evidence, we MUST recognize the need for documentation.

What do we document? We should already be documenting our dive plan. We should already be drawing a scene sketch, writing witness interviews, taking photos when possible and keeping a running log of the entire diver operation ... right? So what else do we need?

"Underwater Crime Scene Investigation"

By **Eric Tackett**



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We need more documentation. You need your own report. You need your own observations written and stored in a personal log for each and every dive call you are part of. You cannot depend on someone else to write down information. If you are called to testify and have no written notes to fall back on other than someone else's notes – what could you possibly say?

What if your notes included observations that were unique because of your perspective? Could you make a difference if your tiny piece of the puzzle was **the** one? Your notes will be kept and rewritten as an **After Action Report**. The After Action Report should contain your observations, actions, performance as well as the incident details. Your notes as well as your After Action Reports should be kept together. These are your documents and your responsibility.

If it was YOU called to testify in a criminal or civil suit and you have / had no notes or information to back you up, you will end up being butchered by an attorney. If you show up to a deposition or are called to testify in court and have a binder of your notes and After Action Reports, your credibility as a witness will be greatly enhanced. More importantly, because they are your notes, they will give you a credible prompt during your testimony and help you remember details that might have otherwise been forgotten.

During your entire career, you may never be put into a position where you are called to testify in court and describe and defend your actions. In 30 years I have been called to testify in court once. I have provided documentation and photos at least three times I can

recall. Even the one trial I was called to testify in - they kept me in the DA's office for 2 1/2 hours then sent me home. The guy pled a deal. I do not know if it was because I was there to testify and had documentation and photos in hand or if it was a coincidence. Regardless - I was prepared. My puzzle pieces were all lined up and ready.

After every mission - the Office in Charge (OIC) should do all the agency/municipality paperwork. He should also write an official After Action Report that includes all of the information gathered during the event. This should be all of the recorded information, documentation, sketches etc. If photos are available, they should be copied and the originals stored or given to the local LE or AHJ. Copies should not be altered in any way. (If you wanted to enhance a photo, make a copy of the original or the 1st generation copy and use it). All of this documentation is submitted to the proper channels and will leave the hands of the OIC.

The OIC should keep a copy of all the paperwork that is submitted as well as his own personal After Action Report!

Each diver or team member who performed ANY task on an incident should write their own personal After Action Report and include a copy of the Incident Report and the OIC's official After Action Report.

There is NO Statue of Limitations on homicide. Recover a revolver or body tomorrow and it is possible you could be called to court ten years from now and it will be your testimony that can make or break a criminal case.

What will you have to say?

If you would like to discuss this topic or any other, join our discussion group at: [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



NEWS

Police divers find 'killing kit' dumped in river during hunt for remains of murdered prostitutes

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2010/05/31/police-divers-find-killing-kit-dumped-in-river-during-hunt-for-remains-of-murdered-prostitutes-86908-22298704/>

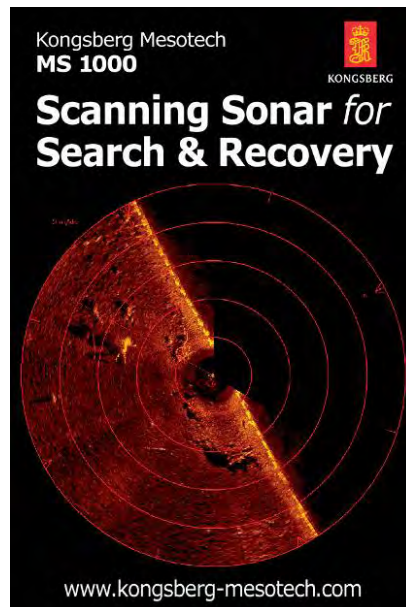
May 31 2010 [Lucy Thornton](#)

POLICE divers hunting for the remains of murdered prostitutes have found a "killing kit" of knives and hacksaws. The tools were found in a black flight bag in a river - at the same spot where body parts were discovered. Detectives investigating the murders of three viceregirls fear the tools may have been used to dismember the women.

The bag was found in the River Aire in Shipley, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, two bags of body parts were found at the same spot. It is not yet known if they were human or animal.

Criminology student Stephen Griffiths, 40, appeared in court on Friday charged with murdering Susan Rushworth, 43, Shelley Armitage, 31, and Suzanne Blamires, 36. When asked his name, Griffiths told the court he was the



"Crossbow Cannibal".

Only Suzanne's remains have been found. They were discovered last Tuesday in black bin liners in the Aire. Her head was discovered in a rucksack on the riverbank. A short distance away, two polythene bags containing remains were found on Saturday.

The flight bag was found later that day. Police are examining 128 sites around Bradford as they hunt for the remains of the other women.

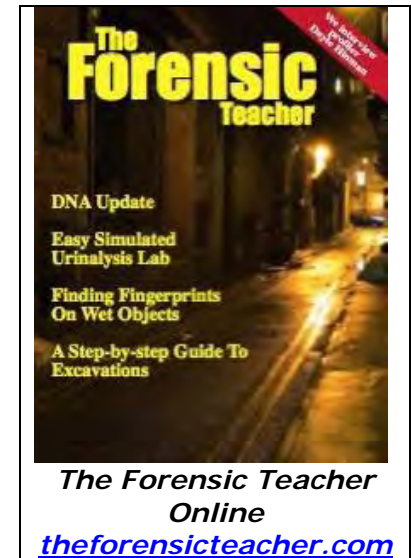
Forensic experts are continuing their search in the River Aire and are also carrying out searches across Bradford city centre, sweeping the streets for clues and taking samples of drain water. Wasteland behind the block of flats where Griffiths lived in Bradford is also being scrutinized.

The massive operation is expected to take weeks.

Griffiths is charged with the murders of Suzanne between May 20 and May 25, of Susan between June 22 last year and May 25 this year, and of Shelley between April 25 and May 25.

All three women were last seen in Bradford.

Griffiths is due in court again next Monday.



Anxious wait for families as more remains found in river at Shipley

http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8193229.Anxious_wait_for_families_as_more_remains_found_in_river/
31st May 2010 by James Rush

The families and friends of missing Bradford women Susan Rushworth and Shelley Armitage were today anxiously awaiting the results of forensic tests on remains pulled out of the River Aire at the weekend.

Police were also looking closely at a suitcase, described as being full of "tools", taken from the same area. Examinations were continuing today on remains found by police investigating the disappearance of the two women – just 200 yards from where the body parts of Suzanne Blamires were discovered last Tuesday.



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Searches at the River Aire, in [Shipley](#), and by [Thornton](#) Road, Bradford, continued over the weekend and were expected to carry on today.

Remains were found in the river by police at midday on Saturday. Police have said the remains were undergoing forensic examination to determine whether they were human or animal.

Later on Saturday afternoon a black carry-on suitcase containing tools was also

pulled from the river by police divers.

A West Yorkshire Police spokesman said the tools were also to undergo a full forensic examination.

Stephen Griffiths, 40, is charged with the murders of Miss Blamires, aged 36, Miss Armitage, aged 31, and Miss Rushworth, aged 43.

Police divers spent all day on Saturday carrying out their searches of the River Aire. An Underwater and Specialist Search Unit was stationed in a cordoned off area at the bottom of Ives Street, in Shipley, as divers searched the river at the bottom of the road.

The rain fell on officers who were standing on the bank watching as divers in full wet suits remained underwater, attached to an orange line, occasionally bobbing to the surface.



A suitcase is taken out of the River Aire at Shipley by police divers in the hunt for vice girls Susan Rushworth and Shelley Armitage

Further up the river, two white tents were set up in a cordoned off car park by Signs Direct, in Dockfield Road.

Police Community Support Officers stood guard at cordons stopping people from walking along the riverbank where the divers were stationed as well as the site of the two tents in Dockfield Road.

Members of the public stood and watched as TV camera crews filmed the divers from a vantage point by the side of the [Baildon](#) Woodbottom Working Men's Club's car park.

Fingertip police searches were also taking place behind the block of flats in Thornton Road, near to Bradford city centre where Stephen Griffiths lives.

A police spokesman yesterday said officers were continuing to search areas of Bradford city centre and the River Aire and were proactively following several lines of inquiry. The spokesman said: "This will continue throughout the Bank Holiday period and into next week. "Forensic examinations are ongoing into the remains found in the River Aire yesterday and at this stage it is unclear

whether they are human or animal. "The suitcase which was found yesterday contained tools, which are to undergo a full forensic examination."



More:

[Bradford murders: remains of second woman found](#)

[Crossbow Cannibal police find remains of second Bradford prostitute -](#)

['Crossbow cannibal' may be moved to psychiatric hospital](#)

Divers search river for body

<http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/have-your-say/news/divers-search-river-for-body/3915051/>

1st June 2010 [Kathryn King](#)

A police dive squad has been called in to help trawl the Whanganui River for the body of a 30-year-old local man.

Whanganui police Senior Sergeant Mark Chillingworth said the man jumped into the river from the Aramoho Rail Bridge about 9pm on Sunday.

A witness called police and a search was started with help of the Wanganui Coastguard. The search continued for about three hours but they were unable to find him. Mr Chillingworth said river conditions at the time were calm and flat.

The search resumed yesterday with five members of Wanganui Search and Rescue, and seven members of the police dive squad arriving from Wellington.

Senior Sergeant Darcy Forrester said although conditions were calm, it would be difficult for divers to find the body. "It's difficult to see in these conditions, they have to go by feel."

Mr Forrester said the dive squad would concentrate their efforts directly under the bridge as the current and counter-tide from the sea made it unlikely the body would have moved very far.

The divers began their search about 1pm yesterday.

Mr Chillingworth said police divers would continue their search until dark, then reassess the situation.

Alabama fire chiefs: BP keeping local officials away from oil spill response

<http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-al--gulfoilspill-firechiefs%2C0%2C7256480.story>

June 9, 2010 B Associated Press

FOLEY, Ala. (AP) — Fire chiefs along Alabama's coast are complaining about BP's response to the Gulf oil spill crisis.

The 36-member Baldwin County Fire Chiefs Association sent a letter Wednesday to the unified command and Alabama Gov. Bob Riley saying the company appears to be purposely keeping trained local officials away from the spill response. They also say they're getting far too little official information about what's going on.

The president of the association, Gib Hixon, says local emergency workers get far more information about the spill from news coverage than from the company or officials at the command set up to handle coastal protection systems and the

cleanup.

A spokesman at the unified command in Mobile didn't immediately return messages seeking comment.

Raft guide arrested after helping stranded rafter on Clear Creek

http://www.denverpost.com/search/cj_15278256

06/11/2010 [By Jason Blevins The Denver Post](#)

Clear Creek sheriff's deputies on Thursday arrested a rafting guide for swimming to a stranded young rafter who had tumbled from his boat on Clear Creek.

Ryan Daniel Snodgrass, a 28-year-old guide with Arkansas Valley Adventures rafting company, was charged with "obstructing government operations," said Clear Creek Sheriff Don Krueger.

"He was told not to go in the water, and he jumped in and swam over to the victim and jeopardized the rescue operation," said Krueger, noting that his office was deciding whether to file similar charges against another guide who was at the scene just downstream of Kermit's Roadhouse on U.S. 6.

Duke Bradford, owner of Arkansas Valley Adventures, said Snodgrass did the right thing by contacting the 13-year-old Texas girl immediately and not waiting for the county's search and rescue team to assemble ropes, rafts and rescuers.

"When you have someone in sight who has taken a long swim, you need to make contact immediately," said Bradford, a 15-year rafting guide and ski patroller from Summit County. "This



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is just silly. Ryan Snodgrass acted entirely appropriately. These guys came to the scene late and there was a rescue in progress. They came in and took over an existing rescue. To leave a patient on the side of a river while you get your gear out of the car and set up a rescue system you read about in a book is simply not good policy."

Snodgrass' raft flipped on the runoff-swelled Clear Creek around noon Thursday and the girl swam from the raft. Krueger said the girl was missing for 30 to 45 minutes while Snodgrass searched for her. He said she swam a half mile from the spot where the raft capsized.

Since it had been so long, Krueger said, it was no longer the rafting company's rescue.

"They should involve themselves up to a point. They lost contact. Whether they want to say they were trying to rescue their customer, when they had lost visual contact and had no idea where their customer has been for 30 to 45 minutes, then it becomes our issue."

Bradford said he would expect his guides to do the same thing again. His guides are professionals, he said, trained and certified in swiftwater rescue.

"To jump into water and navigate a river in a swiftwater rescue is common. You get into the river and swim. You have to do it," Branford said. "The fact these guys don't understand that is disturbing. Making contact immediately with your victim is essential. It's not about who is in charge. It's about the safety of a 13-year-old girl. You are going to do everything in your power to insure the safety of your guest, and if that means in Idaho Springs you get arrested, well I guess we'll just get arrested."

The hidden world of police divers

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/8727869.stm

14 June 2010 by Jon Kelly BBC News Magazine

Underwater search teams are a familiar sight during major police investigations. But what is it like to make a living probing the country's murkiest recesses?



Submerged in darkness, chilled in near-frozen water, you grope your way through the silt and debris. Somewhere, amid the sludge and the discarded rubbish, is your quarry: a knife, a gun or a body.

With colleagues on dry land depending on you, how on earth do you find what you are looking for?

For the UK's army of police divers, patrolling rivers, canals and seas is a daily challenge. The sight of officers in dry suits and breathing apparatus has been a familiar sight on TV news bulletins during the recent triple murder inquiry in Bradford, the search for missing chef Claudia Lawrence and the Milly Dowler probe.

Often searching at night and in cold weather, officers invariably have to contend with nil-visibility conditions, weeds, mud and refuse. Methodically sweeping the search area to ensure no inch is missed, they have to contend with tides, frequently inclement weather and the challenge of constantly maintaining concentration.

One officer who has to contend with these challenges on a daily basis is Sgt Steve Howe, 39, who has served with Northumbria Police's Marine Unit for eight years.

Although he had to undergo a rigorous eight-week training programme before he could join the unit, followed by regular mandatory refresher courses, Sgt Howe admits that nothing could have prepared him for the murky reality of Tyneside and Wearside's hidden depths. "If you're claustrophobic, it's definitely not for you," he says. "About 90% of the time you have absolutely

TO BE A POLICE DIVER



Officers must serve two years before specialising
Some are recreational divers before joining, many are not
Must complete eight-week intensive course and regular refreshers



"If you're claustrophobic, it's definitely not for you "

Sgt Steve Howe

no visibility. You've always got the danger of entanglement. "And let's face it, it isn't very pleasant when you're called out at 3am in February."

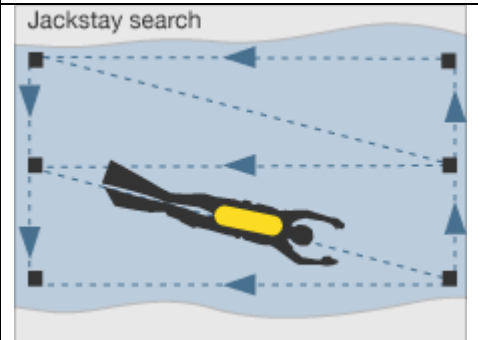
Nonetheless, Sgt Howe loves his job, taking great satisfaction from the fact that a breakthrough discovery can make the difference between a murder investigation foundering or progressing. "It sounds strange, but I always feel most proud when I find a deceased," he says. "Otherwise, the family wouldn't have a body - they can draw a line under it."

As well as searches of rivers, canals and the sea, officers in the unit perform counter-terror security sweeps and searches of confined spaces such as culverts and drains.

When they are submerged, each diver has a full face mask with a lifeline - a cable which means the officers on the surface know exactly where the divers are.

For safety reasons, there are always fewer divers in the water than on the surface. For the Northumbria force, four officers from the diving unit will be above ground for

How police search underwater

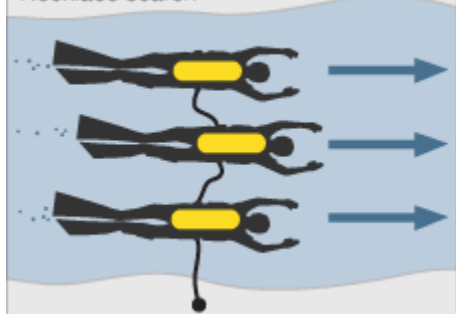


Diver searches to end of line, then moves a weight forward 1m and searches back diagonally

WHAT'S A DRY SUIT?
Worn by police divers
Unlike a wet suit, prevents water reaching the skin
Needed due to risk of poisonous liquid and polluted water

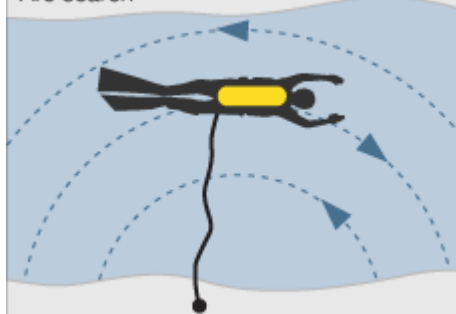
How police search underwater

Necklace search



Several divers swim together in formation, joined by a line held by an officer on the bank

Arc search



Diver swims in arc - on reaching bank, 1m of line is released, diver swims in arc further out

each one underwater.

Nonetheless, the job is always going to be an intricate and dangerous one, with the diver constantly having to be wary of the danger of entanglement.

Swim in a skip

One officer who manages to take it in his stride is Sgt Stewart Kennedy, 43, who has served with the Metropolitan Police's Marine Policing Unit for 11 of his 17 years with the force.

The unit's Underwater and Confined Spaces Search Team carries out about 250 searches each year, spending on average 55% of their time diving, 25% wading

and 20% in confined spaces. "I actually find it very relaxing - when you're under water, all the weight is taken off you," Sgt Kennedy laughs.

But as one of nine divers with the unit, the conditions he can be called in to endure 24 hours a day are a long way from what most people would consider soothing. "The way I'd describe London's canal system - which is our

bread and butter - is imagine a very large skip that anybody can throw rubbish into, and then fill it up with water," Sgt Kennedy adds.

"Hypodermic needles, builders' rubble, traffic cones - everything you can imagine is down there. Because you can't see, you're doing fingertip searches, and you learn to recognise everything by touch."



In the 1950s, divers - then called frogmen - used primitive equipment

Still, the Met's underwater officers can at least rely on an arsenal of sophisticated kit, from two-way communications equipment which allows them to talk to colleagues on the surface, to dinghies and fast response boats.

It is all a long way from the not-too-distant past, as retired Devon and Cornwall officer Dave Peake recalls. He spent 15 of his 31 years in the force from 1968 as a police diver - or, as he was initially described, a "frogman".

At first there was no standing underwater unit, as today - so

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The logo for Diving Unlimited International (DUI) is located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement. It features the letters 'DUI' in a stylized font, with 'DIVING UNLIMITED INTERNATIONAL' written in smaller text below it.

Mr Peake would serve as an ordinary Pc working the beat out of his local station, but could be dispatched at any time along the 600 miles of coastline that surrounded the constabulary. "It's amazing what they have access to today - the equipment has really come on," he says. "We didn't even have safety lines back then - you had to make your way through the water in nil visibility without them. "All the same, it's a hugely rewarding task - I'm very proud of what we did and I still go diving at 66."

The job description may have been transformed, but demand for underwater officers is not likely to go away any time soon. Beneath the surface, the search goes on.

Bibb firefighters train for underwater search and rescue

<http://www.macon.com/2010/06/17/1165346/firefighters-train-for-underwater.html>

June 17, 2010 By AMY LEIGH WOMACK - awomack@macon.com

Macon-Bibb County firefighter Garin Flanders admits it's a "spooky, eerie feeling" to dive into what's often murky darkness and use his hands to search in the water.

Flanders started diving about 12 years ago while going on cruises and trips to the coast. After joining the fire department, he saw the

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firefighter dive team as a way to put his skills to use helping people.

"It's knowing there's somebody who needs you," said Flanders, who has been a firefighter for five years and has been on the dive team for four years. "Somebody's got to do it."



Flanders and other fire department divers trained in a swift section of the Ocmulgee River at the Water Works Park canoe launch Wednesday.

About a dozen of the team's 48 divers practiced searching the floor of the river. The team trains each year during the month of June in the river and at Lake Tobesofkee, said Capt. Randy Moore.

Moore said the firefighters practice rescue and recovery scenarios such as simulating a swimmer stranded on a sandbar or positioning a diver on the bottom of the river so other divers can find him.

The divers also practice a series of silent signals performed by a calculated number of pulls on a rope.

When each firefighter performs a water search they're attached to rope that's being held by a firefighter either on the bank or in a boat, Moore said.

Since the diver can't communicate verbally while underwater and hand signals often can't be seen, the firefighters are trained to pull on the rope in certain sequences to communicate.

For example, when the firefighter out of the water yanks on the rope twice, the diver understands he is being told to change direction. Four yanks means to come to the surface, Moore said.

When the diver pulls on the rope three times, it means the diver has found what he's searching for. Four yanks or more means the diver needs help, he said.



Police divers mark out a grid to aid them in their search.

The divers also practice dodging debris such as large trees and branches while searching. "Things are continually washing down," Moore said.

While the divers are eager to perform rescues, many times they're called on to search for someone who may have died and is lost in the water. Flanders recalled the night when firefighters were dispatched after 48-year-old James Tyson, of Warner Robins, went missing while scuba diving at Lake Tobesofkee last July.

It was just before dark, and the firefighters really didn't have time to don their gear and do much of a search since they don't search at night, he said.

Seeing family and friends gathered nearby, Flanders and another fire department diver tethered themselves together with a rope and started searching for Tyson. "We wanted to do something other than just stand there," he said.

As darkness fell about an hour later, the two firefighters found Tyson. Authorities have said Tyson's oxygen tank wasn't on when divers discovered his body near the bottom of the



Macon-Bibb County firefighter Jason Moss prepares to swim under the surface of the Ocmulgee River on Wednesday morning during a training exercise. BEAU CABELL/THE TELEGRAPH

lake in about 15 feet of water.

To help perform rescues as quickly as possible, fire trucks in Macon and Bibb County have been equipped with a snorkel, mask and dive fins for about the past 10 years, Moore said.

The fire department's dive team was founded in 1982 by a group of 18 firefighters who used their personal dive equipment, said Moore, who was an original team member.

Over the years, the team has grown not only in its number of members, but by acquiring fire department dive equipment and a boat. To qualify for the team, firefighters must first complete between 40 and 50 hours of open water dive training. They then perform an additional 40 to 50 hours of fire department dive training, Moore said.

One of the hardest parts of qualifying is an exercise that requires firefighters to put their gear on underwater, Flanders said.



Jason Moss, one of the team's newest members, said he joined the team because he'd always wanted to learn to dive. "I love being in the water,"

Moss said. While training to be a firefighter in 2008, Moss heard that the department had a dive team. He joined the team in 2009 and still is waiting for his first rescue call, Moss said.



Chief Marvin Riggins said membership on the team is voluntary. Firefighters don't receive extra compensation to be on the team. "It's the satisfaction of knowing you're helping someone," he said.

Information from The Telegraph's archives was used in this report. To contact writer Amy Leigh Womack, call 744-4398.

Read more:

<http://www.macon.com/2010/06/17/1165346/firefighters-train-for-underwater.html#ixzz0swiZagdw>

Divers seek clues in unsolved Farmers Branch police killing

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Divers-Search-for-Evidence-in-1983-Police-Unsolved-Killing-96924619.html>

June 22, 2010 by REBECCA LOPEZ WFAA

VIDEO ON SITE

DALLAS — It's a difficult job, searching murky water for evidence that may have been at the bottom of a pond for 27 years.

Kevin Brooks of the Dallas County District Attorney's office is leading an investigation into a cold case involving the murder of a Farmers Branch police officer. "It could be the type of evidence that would lead to an indictment," Brooks said.

Dallas police divers are helping in the search for answers. They are working with the district attorney's office and Farmers Branch police to solve the case of Officer Lowell Tribble.

On August 27, 1983, someone shot the officer through the windshield of his squad car as he drove through an apartment complex at around 1 a.m. Tribble lived at the complex and had just finished a dinner break.

Neighbors heard four gunshots.

The case went cold almost immediately. "People have been very reluctant to come forward in this one," Brooks said.

It is the longest unsolved police killing in the State of Texas. District Attorney Craig Watkins reopened the case recently as part of his cold case squad after someone came forward with a tip. "We had information that there could be something of interest in this pond," Brooks said.



Officer Tribble is the only Farmers Branch police officer ever killed in the line of duty. His fellow officers want to solve this case, but there have never been any good leads until now.

Divers have now been out to the pond in the 6700 block of Northaven Road in North Dallas twice, but have not yet found what they are looking for. They say they will keep searching until they either find something or the entire pond has been thoroughly examined.

MORE:

[Cold Case Team Searches for New Evidence in Cop Killing](#)

[Divers search Dallas pond for evidence in '83 slaying of Farmers Branch police ...](#)

Three civil rights workers lynched

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/Three-civil-rights-workers-lynched-96666939.html>

June 21, 2010 By: [Liz Esley](#) Examiner Staff Writer

On this day, June 21, in 1964, three civil rights workers were lynched by members of the Ku Klux Klan during what is known as the Freedom Summer.

Police arrested and detained James Cheney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner in Neshoba County, Miss., before handing them over, after dark, into the hands of Klan members, who beat and murdered them before burying their bodies in an earthen dam.

The outcry after their disappearance caused President Johnson to pressure J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI to investigate the case. Navy divers discovered the bodies of seven other missing blacks while searching for the civil rights workers.

In 1967, seven Mississippi men were convicted on conspiracy charges. Eight other defendants were acquitted, and three had mistrials. Edgar Ray Killen was charged with three counts of murder on Jan. 7, 2005, four decades later, when he was 80 years old. He was convicted of manslaughter on June 21, the 41st anniversary of the murders.

Read more at the Washington Examiner:
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/Three-civil-rights-workers-lynched-96666939.html#ixzz0rhPFNFMi>

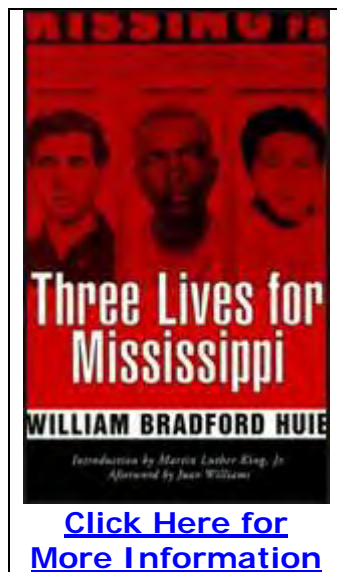
Middle Georgia waterways popular dumping grounds for stolen cars

<http://www.macon.com/2010/06/21/1169596/area-waterways-popular-dumping.html>

Jun. 21, 2010 By AMY LEIGH WOMACK

It's been seven years since that morning Laura Sanders awoke to find that her car had been stolen from a suburban Byron yard.

Sanders, now a Danville resident, had used her college graduation money to pay for a new paint job on her



Mazda 929. She'd recently moved to Byron to establish herself and get a job teaching in Houston County.

She learned last week via text message that her stolen car — and one other also reported stolen — had been found submerged in the Ocmulgee River near Knoll's Landing in Houston County.

Houston County Sheriff's Office Capt. Robert Clark said finding the cars June 13 near Knoll's landing wasn't the first time deputies have found stolen cars in a river.

On a previous occasion deputies located a stolen car in the Flint River in Taylor County, Clark said. "If you're looking at it from the mind of a criminal, (a river) might be a good place to get rid of (stolen cars) without someone finding them for a while," he said.

Bibb County sheriff's Capt. Mike Smallwood can remember several stolen cars found in water over the course of his 36-year career.



As a patrol deputy in 1977, he helped out when deputies found about

BEAU CABELL/THE TELEGRAPH Marcus Birt talks about the Ocmulgee River currents that swept a pickup truck launching a boat off Ga. 96 near the Houston County -Twiggs County line. Several other vehicles were found while authorities searched for the truck.

10 stolen cars in a water pool at a rock quarry near Mumford Road and the Georgia Industrial Children's Home. "They'd put a brick on the gas pedal and let them go," Smallwood said. "There's no telling how long they were in there."

Smallwood said he can also recall stolen cars being recovered from the Ocmulgee River near what's now Water Works Park and the Ocmulgee at Bond Swamp.

Typically, deputies found the cars when water receded and people called in tips after spotting them. In the case of the cars at the rock quarry, the vehicles were spotted when the pool of water was drained, he said. Sanders' car was found on June 13 when a man's truck slipped into the Ocmulgee at Knoll's Landing, located off Ga. 96 near the Houston-Twiggs county line, Clark said.

The man told deputies he was backing his truck up to the dock to unload his boat, when he lost control of a rope tied to the boat, according to a sheriff's office report.

He tried to put the truck into park and grab the rope, but the truck rolled backward into the river, according to the report.

Divers working for Mike Adams Towing and Recovery found Sanders' car and five others while trying to find

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the truck in the river, said Mike Adams, owner of the towing and recovery business.

Clark said two of the vehicles were identified as being stolen — Sanders' car and one other that had been stolen in Macon. He didn't have information about any other cars found in the river.

The cars were completely submerged, he said. "They'd been in there for a while," Clark said.

Sanders' car was crushed on the top and was missing parts. It had mussels growing inside of it and was covered in mud, according to the sheriff's office report.

The other stolen car, a 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche, had been missing since April 2008, according to a Macon police report. The car, owned by James Howard Rish Jr. of Cleveland, Ga., was taken from Best Western Riverside Inn, 2400 Riverside Drive.

Sanders said she was very surprised authorities found her car.

At the time of the theft, she had been living with Robin Radcliffe and her family in Byron.

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Sanders usually parked on the grass at the Radcliffes' home in a suburban cul-de-sac, Radcliffe said.

One morning, Radcliffe's husband was preparing to leave for work when he noticed Sanders' car was gone. "I was shocked," Radcliffe said. "We didn't hear anything. "It freaked us out."

Radcliffe, named as the victim on the stolen car report, received a call from the Houston County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday — about seven years after the car was stolen.

After hearing that the car had been found, she sent a message to Sanders. "We kinda figured it was chopped," said Sanders. "The fact that they found it was surprising."

Read more:

<http://www.macon.com/2010/06/21/1169596/area-waterways-popular-dumping.html#ixzz0rhOEUs1X>

Kewaskum man dies day after water rescue

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20100622/FON0101/6220401/Kewaskum-man-dies-day-after-water-rescue>

The Reporter Staff • June 22, 2010



A rural Kewaskum man who was under water for 38 minutes in a Kewaskum park swimming area, died Monday afternoon at a Milwaukee hospital. Kewaskum police said the victim was Alexander J. Becker, 20, who resided in rural Kewaskum, east of the village. Becker was pronounced dead at 1 p.m. Monday at Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa.

Officials say they responded to Kewaskum Kiwanis Community Park on the west side of Kewaskum around 2:50 p.m. Sunday, following a report of a missing person in the swimming area of the park.

Lifeguards at the pool were searching for a man who had dived off a diving board on the swimming platform and had gone under water after surfacing once, according to police.

A Kewaskum Fire and Rescue team also was dispatched with one of their dive team members. Other divers who responded were from the West Bend Fire and Rescue Department and the Washington County Sheriff's Department. The group was on a similar rescue effort six days earlier when they pulled a boy from Mauthe Lake who later died.

At Kewaskum, one of the divers found Becker about 38 minutes



after the incident occurred in 12 to 17 feet of water. Becker was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in

West Bend and then flown by Flight for Life helicopter to Froedtert Hospital.

Kewaskum Police Chief Richard Knoebel said it appears that Becker did a back-flip dive from one of the diving boards and landed on his stomach. He came up at first and then slipped beneath the water.

Knoebel said the diving board was about 9 feet high, and water in the area was about 12 feet deep. He said he was told Becker knew how to swim and had been seen swimming earlier to a raft. He was at the pool with a friend. At the time of the incident, Kiwanis Park lifeguards started an immediate search, Knoebel said, and cleared the pool of all other persons.

Police say cause of death remains under investigation and



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an autopsy is planned. "It is not known whether Alexander suffered from a medical event..." Knoebel said, adding alcohol use is not suspected.

The pool was closed on Monday, Knoebel said, to give lifeguards "a chance to collect themselves." Because the incident occurred during a shift change, four lifeguards were about to leave duty and four were coming on

duty, Knoebel said. Two others happened to be at the scene.

A crisis team spent time Sunday night assisting the 10 lifeguards, he said.

Flood 'victim' surfaces in harbour two years on

<http://www.weekendpost.co.za/article.aspx?id=577582>
2010/06/25 Gareth Wilson

NAVY divers yesterday recovered a 2004-model Renault panel van that was apparently washed into the Port Elizabeth harbour in a flash flood two years ago.

Navy underwater security specialist Captain Francois du Toit said sonar had picked up the vehicle on the harbour bed. "We decided to investigate and deployed divers," he said.

Du Toit said police divers had also been asked to assist with the recovery operation. "We initially attempted to hoist the vehicle out of the water with a crane, but it was too heavy."

The vehicle was then towed out of the water at the slipway and handed over to the police.

Police sources initially said the vehicle had been underwater for a year "at least" and barnacles had been growing on it. "It is registered to a company called Repru House in Port Elizabeth," the officer said. "The manager said the vehicle had been washed away in flash floods around 2007 or 2008."



OUT YOU COME ... A van washed away in a flash flood was found by navy divers in the Port Elizabeth harbour yesterday. Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

Police diver's explanation of delay in finding bodies

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1800663?UserKey>

Remains of anglers floated to surface eventually
26/06/2010

A police diver yesterday explained yesterday why it took 10 weeks for the bodies of two anglers who perished in Loch Awe to be found.

Kenneth Freeman, 43, a dive supervisor with the underwater search unit, Strathclyde Police, said bitterly cold and murky conditions hampered dive teams in the search for Stephen Carty, 42, and Thomas Douglas, 36.

The Glasgow men died alongside their friend Craig Currie, 30, and Mr Carty's brother William Carty, 47, as they tried to return across the loch to their campsite in a small boat from the Tight Line pub in Loch Awe village.

The accident took place in thick fog in the early hours of March 21 last year.

The bodies of Mr Currie and William Carty, who were wearing buoyancy aids, were recovered a short time later.

But it was May 31 before Stephen Carty, who had a faulty lifejacket, and Thomas Douglas, who had no lifejacket, were found washed up on an island. It is believed that the cold conditions also prevented them floating to the surface sooner.

Mr Freeman told the fatal accident inquiry at Oban Sheriff Court that he and other divers were hampered by the cold conditions and the uncertainty of the location where the first two men were recovered.

Constable Freeman said: "The fire officers could not be accurate at all. They were estimating the positions where they thought the two people had been recovered. On the first day the search had to be aborted on the fifth dive because we had equipment problems because of the cold.



My regulator had actually frozen." He said the water temperature was between 4-6C with 10ft visibility.

Sonar equipment was brought in but was unable to find the bodies or the boat.

The two bodies were only found when they eventually came to the surface.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Read more:

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1800663?UserKey=#ixzz0swVqEQgM>

Dramatic Lake of the Woods rescue saves man trapped in the cabin of capsized boat

http://www.newrichmond-news.com/event/article/id/39177/group/Sports/publisher_ID/9/

A dramatic rescue unfolded on Lake of the Woods Monday afternoon when a police diver and several nearby fishermen freed a man who had been trapped in the submerged cabin of his capsized Stingray boat for more than two hours.

July 1, 2010 By: **Brad Dokken**, Hudson Star-Observer

ROSEAU, Minn. -- For awhile Monday afternoon, Lake of the Woods County Sheriff Dallas Block thought authorities were going to be dragging the bottom of Lake of the Woods for a body.

Instead, a team effort between local resorts and authorities from as far away as Roseau,

Minn., resulted in the dramatic rescue of a Grand Forks-area man who'd been in the water nearly 3 hours after the boat he was in capsized Monday afternoon.

"It was a tremendous rescue," Block said this morning. "We had rough water — 8-foot-plus waves — so you can just imagine. We thought we were going to have a dragging operation, and it turned out we had a successful rescue and only because of the help of our resorters."

According to Block, seven men from the Grand Forks area were anchored about six miles north of Pine Island on Monday afternoon when the boat capsized. The boat had taken on water, unbeknownst to the anglers, because of problems with the bilge pump, Block said.

One of the men caught a fish, Block said, and when the rest of the anglers walked to that side of the boat to witness the catch, the 25-foot Stingray capsized.

Six of the men were rescued by other boats nearby, Block said, but one man fishing in the bow area was unable to get free of the craft.

Block said the sheriff's department received word of the capsizing about 2 p.m. Monday. "When we got the report,

we know the boat had capsized and six people had been picked up and one was missing," Block said.

Names of the seven men onboard weren't immediately available this morning.

The sheriff said Brian Ney of Adrian's Resort was on the lake

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and swam to the capsized boat. Ney talked to the man trapped inside the bow, Block said, learning he still had plenty of oxygen. Divers from the Roseau Police Department and Baudette then got into the cabin and rescued the man, who by that time had been trapped about 2½ hours, Block said.

Ney didn't immediately respond to requests for comment this morning.

According to Block, Steve Ballard of Ballard's Resort and Tony Beckel of Sportsman's Lodge were able to hook on to the boat and tow it to shore. Also assisting in the rescue were personnel from Wheeler's Point Resort and the U.S. Border Patrol, which supplied a boat and a diver. "Thanks to a combined effort, we were successful," Block said.

The sheriff said the men wouldn't have had the problems they encountered with the boat taking on water if they'd known about the faulty bilge pump. "But on the other hand, this lake needs to be respected," Block said. "It can get rough fast."

Brad Dokken is a reporter at the Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald, which is owned by Forum Communications Co.



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Family awaits tests on body found in river

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20100702130116103C854678

July 02 2010 By Lavern de Vries Crime Writer

A Goodwood family is on tenterhooks while they wait for DNA results that may determine whether a body recovered from a river is that of their daughter who went missing a year ago.

Rochelle de Beer, 34, disappeared last June.

Although her body was never found, police arrested her boyfriend in connection with her disappearance. According to police spokesperson Warrant Officer November Filander, 36-year-old Francois Johannes Pretorius was formally charged with De Beer's murder and appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

Filander said that even though it had not been established that the body recovered was De Beer's, there was enough evidence to charge him with her murder. He will apply for bail on July 27.

Mother-of-two De Beer was last seen at a pub having drinks with Pretorius. After she vanished last year, several suspects were questioned, including Pretorius, who told police he had dropped her at her gated



complex in Durbanville on the night of her disappearance.

Her family, however, believe that she never arrived home that night. "She had a lodger, who was also questioned by police, and he said that he came home late that night, but she never arrived," her niece, Tanya Vasson, said on Thursday at the family's Goodwood home.

Three days after her disappearance, her parents reported her missing. "It was not like her to just leave without saying anything; she and her mother spoke often and it was strange that she never phoned home," said her father, Dirk Groenewald.

All her clothes, cellphone and wallet were still at her flat, he said. "She wouldn't leave her children either. They were her life," Groenewald added.

A few weeks ago, the family was contacted by an investigating officer who said police were following new leads. Filander explained that further investigation had led police to search for the victim's body in a river in the Durbanville area. "Nothing was found," he said.

But police divers recalled that they had fished a body out



of a river in the vicinity about a year ago.

Vasson said: "They told us that they hadn't contacted us because the body was dark, yet they also told us that during decomposition, a fair-skinned person becomes darker."

Because no one claimed the body, the state cremated the woman, but retained her head and hip bone. Police have since taken blood samples from both parents to determine whether the remains are De Beer's. "They said they'd try to get the

results before his (Pretorius's) next court appearance, where we hope he will be denied bail," said De Beer's visibly emotional cousin, Elisma Stodart. She said the family was eager to get the results to get closure.

De Beer's elder son, Keenan, 11, who has been told of his mother's disappearance, continues to tell his friends that "the mother who lived for them" is dead. "You never stop searching, wondering and praying because she's your child," said Groenewald.

Today Groenewald was expected to accompany the investigating officer to the river where the body was found a year ago.

Until then, the family lives in hope that the body is not that of their daughter.

Wisconsin Police Divers Train for Vehicle Recovery

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1800663?UserKey=#ixzz0swVgEQgM>

July 4, 2010 By Sarah Thomsen

Featured Videos: [Police Divers Get Special Training](#)

Police dive teams from departments across Wisconsin wrapped up a special training exercise late Wednesday. A federal grant helped teach them how to safely pull vehicles from the water.

Invisibly submerged 18 feet below the surface of the bay, an old conversion van is stuck in weeds and muck.

Police dive teams from Green Bay, Brown County, and Superior must remove it from the water. "We've found that some vehicles are much more difficult to life straight up, and it's a coordinated effort requiring a lot of training," Officer Dave Van Erem, Green Bay Police Department, said.

Green Bay and Brown County have never trained for this but have had to do it. In 2007, police pulled the car of a missing woman, Mahalia Xiong, from the Fox River. At the time they didn't have all the proper



equipment or training and actually had to use a crane from a nearby construction site. "In the end, the results would be the same. We were lucky--" Van Erem said, emphasizing that last word-- "to have had a crane available that day but we didn't have lift bags available, so we would have had to call, like, a Shawano County or Marinette County dive team.

Now it won't be a problem.

Each department will receive all the equipment they trained with when they're done. It's worth about \$5,000 per diver, and it's all equipment none of them has right now. "It's necessary equipment to have, and today's world we would not be able to purchase that with local tax dollars," Captain Arleigh Porter, Sturgeon Bay Police Department, said.

New communication sets let divers and



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crews on shore talk with each other. "It's a little more comforting hearing somebody talk to you while you're underneath cars and stuff and working in zero visibility down there," Lieutenant Scott Schermitzler, Brown County Dive Team, said.

There are lift bags inflated through air hoses, and tow straps carefully attached to the van's frame. As they would during an actual recovery, they use the equipment to position the van close to shore and pull it out with a wrecker.

They know if it happens again, these divers will be trained, equipped, and ready to go.

BP, Governments Downplay Public Health Risk From Oil and Dispersants

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/riki-ott/the-big-lie-bp-government_b_638369.html

July 7, 2010 (photos on web site)

Pensacola Beach, FL -- When Ryan Heffernan, a volunteer with Emerald Coastkeeper, noticed a bag of oily debris floating off in Santa Rosa Sound, she ran up to BP's HazMat-trained workers to ask if they would retrieve it. "No, ma'am," one replied politely. "We can't go in the ocean. It's contaminated."

Ryan waded in and retrieved the bag. That was Wednesday, June 23, the first day visible oil hit Pensacola Beach. Ryan had been swimming off the beach the day before, as she said, "to get in my last swim before the oil hit." The trouble is that not all of the oil coming ashore is visible. Dispersed oil - [tiny bubbles of oil encased in chemical dispersants](#) - are in the water column. On

Thursday Ryan was treated at a local doctor's office for skin rash on her legs.

Three days later on Pensacola Beach, I watched BP's HazMat-trained workers shovel surface oiled sand and oily debris into bags early in the morning. The workers followed the waterline like shorebirds, scurrying up the beach in front of breaking waves and moving back down with receding waters.

The late morning sun retired the workers to the shade of their tents and the job of "observing," while it brought out throngs of beach-goers -- children, parents, grandparents -- who happily plunged into the "contaminated" ocean without a second thought.

I was astounded. Why did people think the ocean was safe for swimming?

There were five HazMat tents, four front-loaders, and at least two dozen HazMat workers on the beach. HazMat workers wore yellow over-boots duct-taped to their long pants' legs to minimize risk of contact with the water. The white surf popped with visible black tar balls as it rolled towards the beach. Waves left an oily signature of tar balls on the beach, melting in the sun. The treads of my Chacos weighed down with oily sand despite trying to avoid the mess. Most people were barefoot. Hotels set up oil cleaning stations on their premises - and signs saying



Skin rash and blisters after wading and walking in Mobile Bay, Alabama, on May 11.

the water advisory (put in place after Ryan's incident) had been lifted.

What's wrong with this picture? **Lots.**

For starters, Ryan's story from Pensacola Beach is not an isolated incident. I have received emails and heard personal stories from Louisiana to Florida of people who have developed skin rashes and blisters from going in the ocean. People describe stings by "invisible jellyfish." Turtle patrol volunteers who walk beaches daily write of blisters and bronchitis. And then there are individuals like Sheri Allen who took her dog for a walk on a beach in Mobile Bay in May.

Sheri wrote me that her "arms and legs were burning, even after the shower. The following morning ... (there were) ... small blood blisters. By evening the blisters had begun to welt. By the fourth day, the areas had got larger and swollen." She went to see a doctor but the sores remain and they have begun to scar her arms and legs. For several days after Sherri's incident, her husband found fish kills on the beach.

William Rea, MD, who founded the [Environmental Health Center-Dallas](#), treated a number of sick Exxon Valdez cleanup workers. He once told me, "When you have sick people and sick animals, and they are sick because of the same chemical, that's the strongest evidence possible that that chemical is a problem."

It's not just skin rashes and blisters. At community forums, I commonly hear from adults and children with persistent coughs, stuffy sinuses, headaches, burning eyes, sore throats, ear bleeds, and fatigue. These symptoms are consistent across the four Gulf states that I have visited. Further, the symptoms of respiratory

problems, central nervous system distress, and skin irritation are consistent with overexposure to crude oil through the two primary routes of exposure: inhalation and skin contact.

Most distressing to me are stories about sick children. "Dose plus host makes the poison," I learned in toxicology. A small child is at risk of breathing a higher dose of contaminants per body weight than an adult. Children, pregnant women, people with compromised or stressed immune systems like cancer survivors and asthma sufferers, and African Americans are [more at risk](#) from oil and chemical exposure - the latter because they are prone to sickle cell anemia and 2-butoxyethanol can cause, or worsen, blood disorders.

Public officials have failed to sound an alarm about the public health threat because three federal agencies - DHHS, EPA, and OSHA - cannot find any unsafe levels of oil in air or water. Perhaps the federal air and water standards are not stringent enough to protect the public from oil pollution. [Our federal laws](#) are outdated and do not protect us from the toxic threat from oil - now widely recognized in the scientific and medical community.

BP is still in the dark ages on oil toxicity. BP officials stress that, by the time oil gets to shore, it is "weathered" and missing the highly volatile compounds like the carcinogenic benzene, among others. BP fails to mention the threat from dispersed oil, ultrafine particles (PAHs), and chemical dispersants, which include industrial solvents and proprietary compounds, many hazardous to humans.

If oil was so nontoxic, then why are the spill response workers giving hazardous waste training? Our federal government should stop pretending that everything is

okay. What isn't safe for workers isn't safe for the general public either.

Ryan's rash was getting better until she sat on Pensacola Beach to watch fireworks on July 4. The next day her skin erupted in fiery red burns. She is worried about her health. So are many other people along the Gulf.

Perhaps it is time for the government to protect public health first and BP's profit second.

Riki Ott, PhD, is a marine toxicologist from Alaska, volunteering in the Gulf. She has written two books on surviving the Exxon Valdez oil spill - Sound Truth and Corporate Myths on biological impact of oil to people and wildlife, and Not One Drop on emotional impact of disaster trauma and litigation to people and community. www.rikiott.com. Ott is working with Emerald Coastkeeper and others to [petition the EPA to delist toxic chemical products](#) in oil spill response.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

On Friday June 11 the family and I packed up and headed to the "Redneck Rivera" for a week of family vacation. I travel to the Alabama Gulf Coast and the panhandle of Florida for mini vacations and diving at least 4-5 times during the summer.

I had been monitoring the approaching oil through the news, the NOAA projection maps and talking to people who live on the Gulf Coast of Alabama.

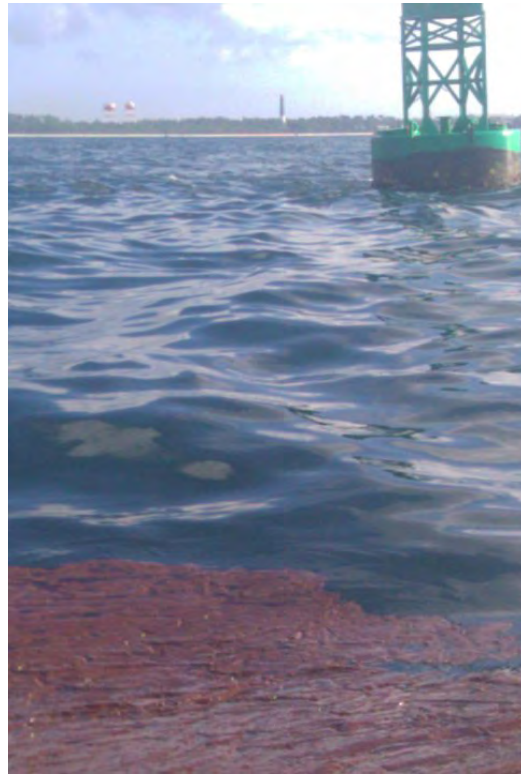
The state of Alabama issued a water quality advisory for the shores of Alabama the first part of June prior to our visit. Even with the reports of a few tar balls on the beaches & water quality advisory we

decided to go anyway, if for no other reason but help support the area with our minimal tourist dollars.

Friday morning the water and beaches along Gulf Shores did not have any significant amount of oil or tar balls reported on the beach or in the water. By that afternoon, we rolled into Gulf Shores, Al and so did the oil. That



evening when we went to the beach there was a solid line of oil at least 6-10 feet wide down the coast from Perdido Pass in Orange Beach, Al as far as you could see west through Gulf Shores. Not only was there gooey oil on the beach but you could see oil balls in each wave. There was also a strong smell of oil, as one local describe it as smelling like a truck stop. It was very difficult to stay on the beach in the evening time because of the smell.



We learned that there was a large oil slick about 6-8 miles off shore in the Gulf Shores area. Friday night we counted 22 or more vessels off shore west of Gulf Shores doing something with the oil. We were told that the ships were trying to skim and contain the oil slick that apparently was moving east. The next few days they moved east in front of Perdido Pass and we could see many booms that were laid out trying to protect the pass. They are also constructing a steel boom with a curtain that hangs under the boom across Perdido Pass to keep the oil from entering the back bays through the pass.

When the water quality advisory was issued the first part of June one of the local dive shops stopped renting dive equipment and the dive charters were going into Florida waters where there was not a advisory. Capt. Jim Meyers owner of Dr. Dive, a dive boat in Pensacola, Florida stated that within days of the explosion he started getting concerned questions and cancellations almost immediately. I was scheduled to go out with Capt. Jim on Tuesday, June 15 and he had to cancel the night before because of reports from Captains in the BP's "vessels of opportunity" were reporting they were picking up sub-surface oil and the oil was more wide spread than previous days off the Pensacola, Florida shore. Now he is diving on a day to day basis and feels like it may be years before regular, unrestricted diving operations can resume. Capt. Jim is also in the process of preparing documents to file claims with BP.

I am hoping to go back to the coast in the middle of July just east of Panama City, Florida and do some scallop hunting with my 12 year old son.

The state of Florida has a real time mapping program of



the oil spill for the gulf coast. Reports from all agencies including vessels of opportunity are inserted on the map along with reports of response or what response is needed. This site is 100 times better than NOAA 's maps <http://map.floridadisaster.org/GATORS>

Susan Snapp

Mark,

I am the Ground Search Captain as well as the alternate dive team leader for Lower Alabama Search and Rescue. (www.LASAR.net). In a previous life I served with the US military and had a chance to work with the Israeli IDF Forces as we practiced each other's CQB and entry tactics. They are awesome soldiers and people – completely professional who are constantly vilified by the rest of the world while they fight a daily, constant battle with terrorists who the media portray as 'victims'. So I absolutely agree with your opinion of the coverage of the so-called 'freedom flotilla'.

But I have to take issue with you on the oil spill. I live in Gulf Shores, AL and when I am not looking for the lost or pulling victims out of black water I teach Scuba diving... or at least I did. Sunday I went to Perdido pass, a place where we take our students for Open Water dives #1 & #2 when the gulf cooperates. At high noon the water right at the edge was alive with hermit crabs desperately trying to escape further up into the bay, while the minnows and small fish were packed so tightly it looked like sardines in a can. Understand, this was in water 1 -2 ft deep in daylight. You NEVER see this behavior. You could see long ribbons of darker, cloudy water the color of beef stock suspended in the water column starting about 5 -6 feet offshore where the water was poisoned. This

isn't thick oil floating on top, or that heavy orange crap on the edge. This is benzene, toluene and other derivatives flowing past the booms, barriers and skimmers into the bays and watersheds and killing EVERYTHING!

The beaches are still white, but the water is toxic and the media isn't talking to the people who actually live here and see all the death. It is much worse than you think, and the story isn't the tarballs!

And we still have to dive in this crap – we are in week 3 of trying to get BP to pay for PPE that is petroleum specific for our divers!

Jim Mahan
CPT LASAR

Editors Response:

Jim,

My editorial was not intended to make light of ANY of the issues the oil spill is causing, rather to highlight the misinformation and confusion created by the news media and the way they presented the initial information. I never believed the media was showing the true story and the fact that they focused on a few tarballs and NOT the real story or what was coming and the half steps of prevention and preparation. Now I am becoming even more convinced that information vital to cleanup and encroachment prevention was withheld and still not totally disclosed.

From what I understand about the dispersants that have been used, they have caused some parts of the oil to breakup and sink. This is causing the plumes we were finally told about after independents went out and filmed

them. What we have not been told yet is what to expect when that material sinks to the bottom and is carried in mass by currents, where it will go, what is it going to do to the deep water ecosystem etc.

My wife and I work with the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network and have done the required training to help with the cleanup and rescue of marine mammals. We are NOT allowed to even touch a bird... I contacted the bird folks in Houston and was told that in 22 years, this is the first time they were not activated.... News and information is not coming out that describes what you are reporting. I have been out of touch for almost a week and watching news today it appears that more information is coming out.

If you are up to the task, write an article from your perspective about the situation. I would rather have that as part of my information base and share it than skewed media reports.

Thanks for writing,
Mark Phillips

Mark-

Be happy to do so – the bureaucracy is getting worse as the claims process backs up. We were told that a claim for petroleum specific dive gear would be expedited, but suddenly we have to go thru the entire process which could take a month. I told the BP rep that I would **not** put a diver in the water with this crap without the proper PPE (especially since I am normally #1 diver of the 1st team in), and I would ensure that everyone who asked why we weren't diving the recovery would be told - it was because BP wouldn't spring for the \$30K it cost to outfit our 8 divers. Considering they spend more than that

every day in this area on their insipid TV commercial apologizing for the spill you gotta wonder about their priorities. I will also track the required schools we are required by OSHA (another bunch of morons!) to take before we are even allowed to get close to the water. We will be required to complete HazWopr, which is a 40 hr certification. There is a 16 hr course which workers have to complete to work the beaches and rescue wildlife which is probably what got you and your wife. Here's another tidbit that'll burn you ... our Fire Chief, who is a HazMat Instructor was not originally contacted to teach the required courses. But an out of state contractor was brought in and was discovered to be giving a 1 hr (approx) 'briefing' and signing off on the paperwork that people had completed the 40 hr course. These people were then put in charge of work crews on boats and skimmers. And this is just the tiny bit that I know about.....

Update 6/25/2010

As more and more info is coming out at the mandatory HazWopr course I am currently enrolled in, the reports of mismanagement, the lack of responsibility towards worker safety and total inadequacy of the response is mind boggling. Workers in one area are in full hazmat while 100 yards down the beach workers from another contractor are doing the same exact cleanup in street clothes. There are no medical screens being done on workers when hired, before or after shift as required by OSHA when working HazMat, no oversight to ensure decontamination after shift at all..... it is absolutely unbelievable!

And now the oil has penetrated up into Mobile bay past the Intercoastal and into the estuaries, ensuring the destruction of the fish hatcheries and nesting areas. I fully intend to document every FACTUAL violation I can find as well as where the money is wasted and by who. So far this entire process has been like putting a band-aid on a leg amputation and I am afraid we haven't really seen anything yet!

I'll be in touch – I will try not to melt the pages

Jim Mahan

Mark,

First I want to congratulate you and your staff for the informative PSDiver. I have been a PSDiver for more than 20 years and teach a distinctive specialty (law enforcement diver) through PADI.

Having experience in teaching NIMS, ICS, and functional as diver, safety diver, and Incident Commander, I find the methodology described in your publications informative and, more important, conservative and safe. Thank you for all that you do to keep our PSDivers safe.

While my City has decided to abandon public safety diving, I continue to teach and fully support the mission and training opportunities presented by PSDiver.

Lt. Mark Poulos
PADI 85393

Blast from the Past

Airplane Crash – Boston Harbor

Divers Assist at Boston Plane Crash

December 1960 – Skin Diver Magazine



Old Press Photo

On October 4, 1960 an Eastern Airlines Electra carrying 72 passengers crashed into the shallow waters of Boston harbor shortly after take-off. Immediately a call went out over radio and television for skin divers to aid in rescue and recovery.

Affording to Bob Cahil of New England Divers, Inc., over 600 volunteer divers reported to the scene. Confusion reigned until Jim Cahill, noted east coast diver, organized teams led by himself, Frank Sanger and Mike O'Neil of the Boston Sea Rovers. Recovery of the victims, sixty-one in all, proceeded smoothly from the broken fuselage which had settled to a depth of twenty feet.

Harold Jillson, president of the Massachusetts Council of Diving Clubs, has expressed deep appreciation to members of his council who made up a substantial number of the volunteers.

"While the airlines assured staff and the general public alike that the Electra was safe, the press at the time certainly did nothing to help the matter. The headlines spoke of the 'killer plane', with often contradictory and confusing reports." *From: [Electra! The Lockheed L-188 by Peter J. Gates](#)*

Found on the Web:

IRT Offers FREE Use of Incident Management Software

[Click HERE to Request information from Incident Response Technologies](#)

Aurora, CO - Incident Response Technologies has announced it will be offering a formal beta testing period for their new incident management software beginning August 1st, 2010. The extensive update to the Rhodium Suite includes the addition of a LAW version to the already available FIRE and SAR editions.

New features are abundant. "This is the most advanced product we have ever built. It includes a highly user-customizable interface that allows almost every aspect of the software to be customized to each agency" says Jarret Winkelman, Regional Sales Director.

The product includes a sophisticated administrative database to track personnel records, credentials, and incident information. Additionally, the incident management module includes the ability to track resource accountability, task assignments, pre-plans, and more on incident scenes. The Rhodium solution is web-hosted so that no unique hardware or servers are necessary. The incident management features can also be utilized without internet access should an incident occur in an area without mobile broadband availability.

"The best news is, we have been able to accomplish these extreme updates without a change in price for the end user", Winkelman adds. The pricing is based on annual call volume so that the product can be scaled to meet the needs and budgets of all agencies, volunteer and career alike.

As part of the new beta testing program, Incident Response Technologies will be allowing agencies to utilize the new version of the software for up to 6 months at no cost. There is no obligation to purchase after the testing period, however Winkelman says significant discounts will be offered.

[Incident Response Technologies](#) encourages any agencies interested in participating in the beta test program to contact them at sales@irtsoftware.com or by phone at (720) 221-7394. Additional information on the beta testing program can be found by [clicking here](#).



Diving Medicine Online

[Ernest Campbell, MD, FACS](#)

Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non-medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist.

<http://www.scuba-doc.com>



Psychological Disturbances

<http://www.scuba-doc.com/psych.htm>

Part One

Compiled by Ernest S Campbell, MD

Little work has been done to factualize the relationship between mental conditions and scuba diving. Other than the obvious proscriptions against someone diving who is out of touch with reality, severely depressed and suicidal or paranoid with delusions and hallucinations---one has to consider the many who can dive with everyday anxieties, fears and neuroses.

Successful divers have a profile that is positively correlated to intelligence, is characterized by a level of neuroticism that is average or below average, and score well on studies of self-sufficiency and emotional stability.

There are some actual psychological disturbances that are well known to all but are poorly documented. These include the *phobic states*, *over-reactive anxiety states*, *illusions* and *responses to physiological abnormalities*.

The normal anxiety induced by the undersea environment is complicated by an over awareness of the potential but definite dangers, causing a *phobic anxiety state* in susceptible people. A vicious circle results and the diver may then develop an actual phobia to descent into the water. Some "dragooned" divers experience this while learning to dive but other stronger motivating factors temporarily override their fear.

Some divers have true *claustrophobia*, preventing their immersion into water or even into a recompression chamber. This syndrome may only surface during certain times of stress and diminished visibility, such as in murky water, night diving or during prolonged diving.

An *agoraphobic reaction* - often called "[blue orb or dome syndrome](#)", it also is seen when a diver loses contact with the bottom and the surface and becomes spatially disoriented.

An *over-reactive anxiety state* usually occurs in response to some inadvertent mishap, such as a mask flooding with water-causing the diver to panic unnecessarily and behave irrationally. Most often this results in emergency ascents with the attendant dangers, frantic grabs for air supplies, and lack of concern for the safety of others. This is seen more often in those divers who have an above normal neuroticism gradient.

Reference

Morgan WP Anxiety and panic in recreational scuba divers. Sports Med 20 (6): 398-421 (Dec 1995) .
Scuba diving is a high-risk sport; it is estimated that 3 to 9 deaths per 100,000 divers occur annually in the US alone, in addition to increasing numbers of cases of decompression illness each year. However, there has

been a tendency within the diving community to de-emphasize the risks associated with scuba diving. While there are numerous factors responsible for the injuries and fatalities occurring in this sport, there is general consensus that many of these cases are caused by panic. There is also evidence that individuals who are characterized by elevated levels of trait anxiety are more likely to have greater state anxiety responses when exposed to a stressor, and hence, this sub-group of the diving population is at an increased level of risk.

Fears associated with this environment can cause heightened suggestibility and result in mistaking fish, other divers and objects for sharks.

Finally, every diver has his own personality structure which may respond differently to abnormal physiological states and the environment. Such states include inert gas narcosis, carbon dioxide toxicity, oxygen toxicity, HPNS, etc. Each of these can cause reactions that vary in intensity from a psychoneurotic reaction to one of the organic cerebral syndromes.

Depression

The depressed diver is suffering from a mood disorder which may swing from elation to the deepest abyss of sadness. Most depressed people also have a lot of anger and anxiety underlying their mood swings. Certifying or allowing a depressed diver to continue to dive carries with it significant dangers to the diver and to his buddy. There appear to be some recorded scuba fatalities that were suicides - apparently decided upon at the moment. Any mood condition that clouds a diver's ability to make decisions in the underwater environment is clearly dangerous and should not be allowed. Mood altering

drugs used to treat depression are clearly potent and must be used with caution when diving, paying particular attention to the warnings about use in hazardous situations. Rarely do we know the pharmacological changes that take place from the physiological effects of diving on the effects of the drug. Also, discontinuance of the drug in order to dive, even for a short period of time, may be unwise.

Psychological Issues in Diving

(As published in DAN's 'Alert Diver', Sept-Dec, 2000)

Introduction

Little research has been done to factualize the relationship between mental conditions and scuba diving. Other than the obvious proscriptions against someone diving that is out of touch with reality, severely depressed and suicidal or paranoid with delusions and hallucinations--one has to consider the many who can dive with everyday anxieties, fears and neuroses.

Successful divers have a profile that is positively correlated to intelligence, is characterized by a level of neuroticism that is average or below average, and score well on studies of self-sufficiency and emotional stability.

There are some actual psychological disturbances that are well known to all but which are poorly studied and documented as concerns the risks of scuba diving. These include the depressions, bipolar disorder, anxiety and phobic states, panic disorders, narcolepsy and schizophrenia.

In addition to the risks caused by the condition itself, one must add the possible hazards of effects and side effects of medications - either as taken singly or even more dangerous, in combination. Needless to say, there have

been and probably will not be good scientific studies that will indicate the safety or danger of any given set of conditions and drugs. The role of medication in diving is usually less important than the condition for which the medication is being used. A mood-altering medication is plainly powerful and should be used with care in diving.

Drugs that carry warnings as dangerous for use while driving or using hazardous equipment should also be thought of as dangerous for divers. The interaction between the physiological effects of diving and the pharmacological effects of medications is usually an educated supposition. Each situation will have to be carefully evaluated individually, and there is no general rule that applies to all.

Finally, every diver has his own personality makeup, which may respond differently to abnormal physiological states and changes in the environment from the effects of various gases under pressure. Such states as inert gas narcosis, carbon dioxide toxicity, oxygen toxicity, HPNS, deep water blackout all can cause reactions that are similar to a psychoneurotic reaction or one of the organic cerebral syndromes. Therefore the diver, the dive instructor and the certifying physician all must be aware of the all the possibilities and protean manifestations of each and every individual case before allowing or disallowing diving with psychological problems.

Depressive Disorders (Depression and Manic Depression) (Bipolar disorder)

Overview of Depressive Illnesses and Its Symptoms

Depressive and manic depressive illnesses are the two major types of depressive illness, also known as affective disorders, or mood disorders, because they primarily affect a person's mood. Different terms, respectively,

include unipolar and bipolar disorder. In this section, we will predominately discuss major depressive disorder and manic depression, which encompasses symptoms of depression and mania or hypomania, a more moderate syndrome than full-blown mania.

It is estimated that over 17.4 million adults in the U.S. suffer from an affective disorder each year--that's one out of every seven people. If you've never been depressed, chances are that at some point in your life, you will become affected. Women are twice as likely as men to experience major depression while manic depression occurs equally among the sexes. The highest percentages of these illnesses occur between the ages of 25 and 44.

Where do these illnesses come from? Genetic, biochemical and environmental factors can each play a role in onset and progression. While us all experience occasional highs and lows, depressive disorders are characterized by their extremes in intensity and duration. People with severe, untreated depression have a suicide rate as high as 15 percent. In fact, the number one cause of suicide in the U.S. is untreated depression. Even so, of all psychiatric illnesses, affective disorders are among the most responsive to treatment. If given proper care, approximately 80 percent of patients with major depression demonstrate significant improvement and lead productive lives. Although the treatment success rate is not as high for bipolar disorder, a substantial number experience a return to a higher quality of life.

The Cause of Affective Disorders

Research shows that some people may have a genetic predisposition to affective disorders. If someone in your family has had such an illness, that does not necessarily mean you will develop it, nor does it explain conclusively why you did. It does increase your chances of

experiencing depression of an endogenous nature (biological in basis). This is commonly referred to as clinical depression to distinguish it from short-term states of depressed mood or unhappiness. Even if you don't have a genetic predisposition, your body chemistry can trigger the onset of a depressive disorder, due to the presence of another illness, altered health habits, substance abuse, or hormonal fluctuations.

Depression can also be triggered by distressing life events, resulting in reactive depression. Losses and repeated disillusionment, from death to disappointment in love, can cause anyone to feel depressed especially if they have not developed effective coping skills. If these symptoms persist for more than two weeks, maintaining or increasing in intensity, this reactive depression may actually have evolved into a clinical depression.

Regardless of its cause, the presence of depressive or manic-depressive illness indicates an imbalance in the brain chemicals called neurotransmitters. In other words, the brain's electrical mood-regulating system is not working as it should.

An episode of depression can usually be treated successfully with psychotherapy or antidepressant medication, or a combination of both. The choice depends on the exact nature of the illness. With treatment, up to 80% of depressed people show improvement, usually in a matter of weeks.

Most depressed people also have a lot of anger and anxiety underlying their mood swings. Certifying or allowing a depressed diver to continue to dive carries with it significant dangers to the diver and to his buddy. It is possible that there are some scuba fatalities that were suicides - apparently decided upon at the moment.

Any mood condition that clouds a diver's ability to make decisions in the underwater environment is clearly dangerous and should not be allowed. Mood altering drugs used to treat depression are clearly potent and must be used with caution when diving, paying particular attention to the warnings about use in hazardous situations. Rarely do we know the pharmacological changes that take place from the physiological effects of diving on the effects of the drug. Also, discontinuance of the drug in order to dive, even for a short period of time, may be unwise.

Here are some of the symptoms of depression:

- * Prolonged sadness or unexplained crying spells
- * Significant changes in appetite and sleep patterns
- * Irritability, anger, worry, agitation, anxiety
- * Pessimism, indifference
- * Loss of energy, persistent lethargy
- * Feelings of guilt, worthlessness
- * Inability to concentrate, indecisiveness
- * Inability to take pleasure in former interests, social withdrawal
- * Unexplained aches and pains
- * Recurring thoughts of death or suicide

Symptoms of Mania (Bipolar disorder)

- * Heightened mood, exaggerated optimism and self confidence
- * Decreased need for sleep without experiencing fatigue
- * Grandiose delusions, inflated sense of self-importance
- * Excessive irritability, aggressive behavior
- * Increased physical and mental activity
- * Racing speech, flight of ideas, impulsiveness
- * Poor judgment, easily distracted
- * Reckless behavior (spending sprees, rash business)

decisions, erratic driving, sexual indiscretions)

*In the most severe cases, hallucinations

Divers experiencing four or more of the above symptoms of either or both depression or mania should seek professional help if symptoms persist for longer than two weeks. Diving should be curtailed until the problem is appropriately managed. Divemasters and instructors should learn to recognize any changes in their divers' appearances, reactions and personalities and be quick to note any of the above signs and symptoms. Medical professionals also need to be aware of the dangers of diving to individuals who have conditions or are on medications that might alter consciousness or cause alteration in decision making ability in the underwater environment.

Advice About Diving

Whether or not a person with depression should be certified as 'fit to dive' should be decided on the merits of each case, the type of drugs required, the response to medication, and the length of time free of depressive or manic problems. Most probably could be allowed to dive, particularly those who have responded well to medications over a long term. Decision-making ability, responsibility to other divers and relationship to drug induced side effects that would limit ability to gear up and move in the water should be taken into consideration. Prospective divers should in all cases provide full disclosure of their condition and medications to the dive instructor and certifying agency - bearing in mind the safety of buddies, dive instructors, divemasters and other individuals who are always affected by diving incidents.

Medications used to treat depression and bipolar disorders

Buprenorphine/Buprenex

Buprenorphine has been used to treat depression that has not responded to usual medication regimens.

Side Effects Adverse to divers:

- Drowsiness: A few patients may feel tired from buprenorphine.
- Low Blood Pressure: Avoid standing from a sitting or lying position quickly.
- Headache

Bupropion/Wellbutrin/Zyban

Bupropion is used to treat depression, attention deficit disorder, bipolar disorders, and smoking cessation.

Side effect that is adverse to diving:

Increased incidence of seizure activity, dose-related.

Buspirone / Buspar

Buspirone is used to treat anxiety or depressive symptoms, aggressiveness, irritability, or agitation, and may be used to augment the effectiveness of an antidepressant or treat certain antidepressant-induced side effects.

Side Effects that may be adverse to diving;

Drowsiness: Occurs rarely. Make sure you know how you react to this medicine before driving or using dangerous machinery. Dizziness: This is uncommon, but may occur especially 30-60 minutes after taking a dose, with walking or standing.

Carbamazepine / Tegretol

This medication can be used to prevent or reduce the

severity of mood swings. It is also helpful in preventing the recurrence of depression.

Side Effects that may be adverse to diving.

Drowsiness: This is usually only a problem the first few weeks you are on Carbamazepine. If this is a problem, be very cautious while driving or working with dangerous machinery.

Dizziness: This is usually temporary and will go away with continued use. You may avoid this by rising or changing positions slowly.

Lamotrigine

Lamotrigine belongs to a group of medications called anticonvulsants. Anticonvulsants are used to control seizure disorders. In psychiatry lamotrigine may also be used to stabilize mood, especially in Bipolar Affective Disorders.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

· Dizziness or drowsiness: Know how you react to this medicine before driving or operating dangerous machinery.

Other possible side effects include:

· Balance problems, dizziness, headache, blurred vision, tremor, nausea.

Lithium (Lithonate, Eskalith, Lithobid, Lithane)

This medication has several uses. When taken regularly, Lithium helps prevent or reduce the severity of mood swings. Lithium can also be used to augment the effectiveness of an antidepressant.

Side effects adverse to diving may occur:

· Muscular weakness: This usually goes away with

continued use.

· Drowsiness: This usually goes away with time. If you are drowsy, use caution with driving or operating dangerous machinery. .

Too much Lithium can cause toxicity.

· Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, tremor, dizziness, sleepiness, slurred speech, balance problems.

Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors:

Nardil/Phenelzine and Parnate/Tranlylcypromine MAOI's are used to treat depression and anxiety disorders.

This medication is usually very well tolerated.

However possible side effects include:

· Dizziness: This may be due to low blood pressure. Dizziness may occur when you get up quickly or rapidly change positions. Arise or change positions slowly. This tends to occur only the first 2 months of treatment or with dosage increases. Taking all the dose at bedtime, or taking several smaller doses during the day may be helpful. Contact your physician before making any dosage changes.

· Drowsiness: This is usually transient, lasting up to several months.

· Tremor: This is an uncommon side effect, which may improve with continued use of the medication.

Methylphenidate / Ritalin

Methylphenidate is used to treat Attention Deficit Disorder, and to augment the effects of antidepressants.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

· Excessive stimulation: Consider decreasing the

- dose or waiting longer between doses.
- Nervousness: This may occur when beginning to take this medication or increasing the dose.
- Increased blood pressure: Have your blood pressure checked weekly while on this.
- Increased resting heart rate: This tends to return to normal after a couple months.
- Infrequent side effects may include: headache, abdominal discomfort, fatigue.

Mirtazapine (Remeron)

Mirtazapine is used to treat depressive and anxiety symptoms.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

- Drowsiness: Mirtazapine should be taken one hour before bedtime. Make sure you know how you react to this drug before driving or using dangerous machinery. Drowsiness often disappears with increased dose.
- Dizziness: Arise from sitting or lying position slowly.
- Dry Mouth: Drink plenty of fluids. Chew sugarless gum or suck on sugarless candy to promote saliva production.

Venlafaxine / Effexor

Venlafaxine is used to treat depressive symptoms and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

- Anxiety/restlessness: This may diminish with continued use.
- Drowsiness: Make sure you know how you react to this medicine before driving or using dangerous

- machinery.
- Dry Mouth: This may diminish with continued use. Dry mouth may increase your risk for dental disease. Chew sugarless gum and brush at least daily with fluoridated toothpaste.
- Rare side effects include: Seizure, fainting, muscle tightness, menstrual changes, excitability, trouble breathing, swelling of feet or legs.

S-Adenosyl-L-Methionine (SAME)

SAME has been cited to alleviate depression, reduce symptoms of fibromyalgia, slow progress of osteoarthritis, improve memory, reduce alcohol-induced liver damage, and possibly reduce symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

- Dry Mouth: Drink plenty of fluids. Chew sugarless gum or suck on sugarless candy.
- Blurred vision: Unusual.
- Restlessness, anxiety, &/or elation
- Patients with bipolar depression may switch to a manic state. .

Sertraline / Zoloft

Sertraline is used to treat depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive symptoms.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include include:

- Anxiety/restlessness: This will usually diminish with continued use.
- Drowsiness: If this occurs, take this medication 1 hour before bedtime. This usually diminishes with continued use.
- Dry mouth: This may diminish with continued use.

Dry mouth may increase your risk for dental disease. Chew sugarless gum and brush at least daily with fluoridated toothpaste.

- Tremor: This tends to diminish with continued use.
- Bruising/bleeding: Use of sertraline can slightly increase risk of bruising and bleeding, but this can be significant when aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, flurbiprofen, diclofenac, sulfasalazine, sulindac, oxaprozin, salsalate, piroxicam, indomethacin, etodolac) are also taken. Barotrauma is a hazard.

St. John's Wort

St.John's wort is used to treat mild to moderate depression and possibly anxiety. This medication is not recommended for treatment of severe depression, including depression with suicidal thoughts, psychotic features (hallucinations, confused thoughts), or melancholia (weight loss, early morning awakening, very low energy).

Possible side effects include:

- Anxiety/restlessness: This will usually go away with continued use.
- Fatigue: This is uncommon and usually goes away with continued use.
- Concentration: Some studies demonstrate improved concentration and attention.
- Dizziness: This is uncommon and usually goes away with continued use.

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Tricyclic antidepressants are used to treat depression, anxiety, and chronic pain.

Possible side effects inimical to diving include:

- Drowsiness: This is usually a problem only during the first few days of starting or increasing the dose. Be cautious with driving and operating dangerous machinery until this symptom clears up. If this occurs, take this medication 1 hour before bedtime. This usually goes away with continued use.
- Dizziness: This may occur when you get up too quickly or rapidly change positions. Avoid this by changing positions slowly, especially during the night.
- Dry Mouth: This may disappear with continued use. Dry mouth may increase risk of dental disease. Chew sugarless gum, suck on sugarless candy, drink plenty of water, and brush at least daily with fluoridated toothpaste.
- Blurred Vision: This is usually temporary, rarely serious, and diminishes with continued use. Contact your physician if severe. .

Topiramate / Topamax

Topiramate belongs to a group of medications called anticonvulsants. Anticonvulsants are used to control seizure disorders. In psychiatry topiramate may also be used to stabilize mood, especially in Bipolar Affective Disorders.

Possible side effects adverse to divers include:

- Dizziness/drowsiness: Usually goes away with continued use.
- Difficulty concentrating: May not appear until after the first month of taking topiramate.
- Tingling feelings of extremities: May disappear after first month of treatment.
- Double vision: May be temporary side effect.

Trazodone / Desyrel

Trazodone is used to treat depression, some sleep problems, and agitation.

Possible side effects adverse to divers include:

- Drowsiness: Do not drive a car or operate dangerous machinery until you know how this drug affects you. Taking the evening dose 10 hours before arising the next morning may make this more tolerable.
- Dry mouth: This is usually temporary. Suck on sugarless candy or chew sugarless gum. Use fluoridated toothpaste at least twice daily.
- Dizziness: This may occur when you arise from a lying or sitting position too quickly, especially 4-6 hours after taking your medication. Rise and change positions more slowly to let your body adjust.

Valproic Acid / Depakote

Valproic acid belongs to a group of medications called anticonvulsants. Anticonvulsants are used to control seizure disorders, but in psychiatry Valproic Acid may also be used to stabilize mood, especially in Bipolar Disorders.

Possible side effects adverse to diving include:

This medication may cause drowsiness. Know how you react to this medicine before driving or operating dangerous machinery.

Nefazodone / Serzone

Nefazodone is used to treat depression and anxiety symptoms.

Possible side effects adverse to divers include:

- Drowsiness: Do not drive a car or operate dangerous machinery until you know how this drug affects you.
- Dry mouth: This is usually temporary. Suck on sugarless candy or chew sugarless gum. Use fluoridated

toothpaste at least twice daily.

- Dizziness: This may occur when you arise from a lying or sitting position too quickly, especially 4-6 hours after taking your medication. Rise and change positions more slowly to let your body adjust.
- Low Blood Pressure: This is uncommon and may subside with continued use.
- Blurred Vision: This is unusual, usually temporary, and usually subsides with continued use.

Paroxetine / Paxil

Paroxetine is used to treat depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Possible side effects inimical to diving include:

- Anxiety/restlessness: This will usually go away with continued use. If this causes difficulty, contact your psychiatrist.
- Drowsiness: If this occurs, take this medication 1 hour before bedtime. This usually goes away with continued use.
- Dry Mouth: This may disappear with continued use. Dry mouth may increase risk of dental disease. Chew sugarless gum and brush at least daily with fluoridated toothpaste.
- Blurred Vision: This is usually temporary and will diminish with continued use.
- Tremor: This tends to go away with continued use.
- Bruising/bleeding: Use of paroxetine can slightly increase risk of bruising and bleeding, but this can be significant when aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, flurbiprofen, diclofenac, sulfasalazine, sulindac, oxaprozin, salsalate, piroxicam, indomethacin, etodolac) are also taken. This might be a danger with

barotrauma.

Anxiety, Phobias and Panic Attacks

Normally, fear and anxiety can be helpful, helping us to avoid dangerous situations, making us alert and giving us the motivation to deal with problems. However, if the feelings become too strong or go for too long, they can stop us from doing the things we want to and can make our lives miserable.

Anxiety in the mind causes worried feelings, tiredness, loss of concentration, irritability and insomnia. It affects the body by producing irregular heartbeat, sweating, tense muscles and pain, heavy rapid breathing, dizziness, faintness, indigestion and diarrhea.

These symptoms are often mistaken by anxious people for evidence of serious physical illness and their worry about this can make the symptoms even worse. Sudden unexpected surges of anxiety are called panic, and usually lead to the person having to quickly get out of whatever situation they happen to be in. Panic occurring at depth can lead to near-drowning and lung over-expansion injuries and death.

The normal anxiety induced by the undersea environment is complicated by an over-awareness of the potential but definite dangers, causing a phobic anxiety state in susceptible people. A vicious circle results and the diver may then develop an actual phobia to descent into the water. Some "dragooned" divers experience this while learning to dive but other stronger motivating factors temporarily override their fear. Anxiety is a normal human feeling. We all experience it when faced with situations we find threatening or difficult.

An over-reactive anxiety state usually occurs in response to some inadvertent mishap, such as a mask flooding with water-causing the diver to panic unnecessarily and behave irrationally. Most often this results in emergency ascents with the attendant dangers, frantic grabs for air supplies, and lack of concern for the safety of others. This is seen more often in those divers who have an above normal neuroticism gradient.

Phobias

A phobia is a fear of particular situations or things that are not dangerous and which most people do not find troublesome. A person with a phobia has intense symptoms of anxiety, as described above. But they only arise from time to time in the particular situations that frighten them. At other times they don't feel anxious. If you have a phobia of dogs, you will feel OK if there are no dogs around, if you are scared of heights, you feel OK at ground level, and if you can't face social situations, you will feel calm when there are no people around.

A phobia will lead the sufferer to avoid situations in which they know they will be anxious, but this will actually make the phobia worse as time goes on. It can also mean that the person's life becomes increasingly dominated by the precautions they have to take to avoid the situation they fear. Sufferers usually know that there is no real danger, they may feel silly about their fear but they are still unable to control it. A phobia is more likely to go away if it has started after a distressing or traumatic event.

About one in every ten people will have troublesome anxiety or phobias at some point in their lives. However, most will never ask for treatment. Some divers have true claustrophobia, preventing their immersion into water or even into a recompression chamber. This syndrome may

* EVENTS *

only surface during certain times of stress and diminished visibility, such as in murky water, night diving or during prolonged diving. There is no one cure for it, but there are various treatments, such as Exposure therapy, a behavioral technique that exposes you to the situation you fear most -- being in enclosed spaces. The two most popular forms of this therapy are 'slow desensitization' and 'flooding'. Flooding is a rapid and more intense form of desensitization without any relaxation techniques. Rather you are exposed directly to what you most fear until the anxiety subsides. Such direct exposure can be imagined or an actual confrontation with the phobic trigger. This would seem to be a dangerous method of treatment in the underwater milieu.

An agoraphobic reaction - often called "blue orb or dome syndrome" (<http://www.scuba-doc.com/bluorb.htm>), it also is seen when a diver loses contact with the bottom and the surface and becomes spatially disoriented. Sensory deprivation can also cause illusions, particularly when there is impaired visibility. Anxiety associated with this environment can cause heightened suggestibility and result in mistaking fish, other divers and objects for sharks.

Look for *Psychological Disturbances* Part Two In PSDiver Monthly Issue 75



Come out to a DUI DOG Rally & Demo Tour and Actually TEST DIVE DUI Drysuits, DiveWear Insulation and Accessories

http://www.dui-online.com/dog_main.html

All Public Safety Diver programs are held in conjunction with DUI DOG Rally & Demo Tour dates. In most cases, the event is held on Friday for public safety divers only with the DOG Rally event open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday.

August 27 ,2010	Seattle, WA Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
Sept 24, 2010	Metropolis, IL Mermet Springs
October 1, 2010	Portland, CT Brownstone Quarry
October 22 ,2010	Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings
Nov 5 ,2010	Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
Nov 12 ,2010	Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

July 14, 2010 - Saturday, July 17, 2010

IAI

Spokane, WA

www.theiai.org

July 20, 2010 - Friday, July 23, 2010

5th Annual College and University Police and Investigators Conference

Vienna, VA

cupic.gmu.edu

July 24, 2010 – , July 29, 2010

Evidence Photographer Certification

Atlanta, GA

www.evidencephotographers.com

July 26, 2010 - July 28, 2010

Green Mountain DNA Conference

Burlington, VT

www.greenmountaindna.com

August 2, 2010 - August 6, 2010

Pattern Evidence Symposium

Clearwater Beach, FL

<http://projects.nfstc.org/ipes/>

August 2, 2010 - August 7, 2010

2010 Continuing Education for Forensic Professionals Program

Boston, MA

<http://fsi.research.wvu.edu/>

August 8, 2010 - August 13, 2010

IHIA 17th Annual Symposium

Sparks, NV

www.ihia.org

August 17, 2010 - August 19, 2010

Forensic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Symposium

Ames, IA

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/training/bloodstain-pattern.htm

August 27, 28, 29 2010

Underwater Body and Weapon Recovery

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Criminal Justice

http://psdiver.com/images/Alvin_Community_College_-_2010_PSD_Release-secure.pdf

[2010_PSD_Release-secure.pdf](http://psdiver.com/images/Alvin_Community_College_-_2010_PSD_Release-secure.pdf)

September 7, 2010 - September 10, 2010

AFOAM 2010 Conference

New Orleans, LA

www.afgam.org

September 12, 2010 - September 16, 2010

ASCLD

Baltimore, MD

www.ascl.org

September 15, 2010 - September 17, 2010

Minnesota Division IAI Annual Educational Conference

Brooklyn Park, MN

www.mniai.org

September 19, 2010 - September 24, 2010

SAFS Annual Fall Meeting

Tunica, MS

www.southernforensic.org

September 20, 2010 - September 24, 2010

SWAFS Annual Meeting

Grapevine, TX

www.swafs.us

September 29, 2010 - October 1, 2010

Ohio Identification Officers Association Fall Training Conference

Newark, OH

www.oioa.org

October 1, 2010 - October 6, 2010

NAME Annual Meeting

Cleveland, OH

www.thename.org

October 4, 2010 - October 8, 2010
The 2010 Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting
Kansas City, MO
www.mafs.net

October 4, 2010 - October 6, 2010
MAFS/MFRC Crime Scene Investigation Symposium
Kansas City, MO
www.mafs.net

October 4, 2010 - October 8, 2010
The Tennessee Division of the IAI Annual Conference
Nashville, TN
www.tniai.org

October 8, 2010 - October 10, 2010
Missouri Division of the IAI Annual Educational Conference
Lake Ozark, MO
www.mojai.org

October 9, 2010 - October 14, 2010
Evidence Photographer Certification
Atlanta, GA
www.evidencephotographers.com

October 11, 2010 - October 14, 2010
International Symposium on Human Identification
San Antonio, TX
www.promega.com/applications/hmnid/worformmeetings/

October 14, 2010 - October 17, 2010

Association of Forensic Document Examiners Annual Symposium
Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ
afde.org

October 17, 2010 - October 21, 2010
Florida Division of the IAI – Annual Conference
St Petersburg, FL
www.fdiai.org

Monday, October 18, 2010 - Friday, October 22, 2010
SOFT
Richmond, VA
www.soft-tox.org

October 18, 2010 - October 20, 2010
Indiana Division of the IAI Annual Educational Conference
Fort Wayne, IN
www.iniai.org

October 21, 2010 - October 23, 2010
1st Annual World Congress of Forensics
Dalian, China
www.bitlifesciences.com/wcf2010/

October 23, 2010 - October 27, 2010
IACP Annual Conference
Orlando, FL
www.theiacp.org

November 5, 2010 - November 6, 2010
Chesapeake Bay Division IAI Fall Conference
Ocean City, MD
www.cbdiain.org

November 8, 2010 - November 12, 2010
2010 NEAFS & NEDIAI Joint Meeting
Manchester, VT
www.neafs.org ; www.nediai.org



DEMA SHOW 2010
November 17-20 in Las Vegas, Nevada
Visit www.demashow.com to register.

November 19, 2010 - November 20, 2010
Cause and Manner of Death
Pittsburgh, PA
www.duq.edu/forensics

January 11, 2011 - January 18, 2011
Evidence Photographer Certification
San Antonio, TX
www.evidencephotographers.com
January 16, 2011 - January 18, 2011
EPIC – Imaging USA
San Antonio, TX
www.evidencephotographers.com

February 8, 2011 - February 10, 2011
ACSR Annual Training Conference
Jacksonville, FL
www.acsr.org

February 21, 2011 - February 26, 2011
AAFS
Chicago, IL
www.aafs.org

If you have an event or know of an event that might be of interest to PSDiver Monthly subscribers, send the information to: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education PSDM-CE-74

- 1) Nitrogen absorption by the body is only below depths of :
 - a. 1 foot
 - b. 10 feet
 - c. 33 feet
 - d. 100 feet

- 2) Which of the following could be a crime scene?
 - a. Reported accidental drowning
 - b. Victim with gun shot wound
 - c. Vehicle accident
 - d. Until death cause has been determined, all scenes are a crime scene.

- 3) A.H.J. is considered to mean:
 - a. Area having jurisdiction
 - b. Authority having jurisdiction
 - c. Agency having jurisdiction
 - d. Anyone having jurisdiction

- 4) The statute of limitations for charging a person with homicide is:
 - a. 7 years
 - b. 10 years
 - c. 25 years
 - d. No Limitation

- 5) A forensic investigation is only useful for fresh water drownings.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 6) Because of the Federal Privacy Act, a video of the recovery of a deceased person is not admissible in a court.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 7) OSH stands for:
 - a. Official Standards for Homeland Security
 - b. Officer Submitted Hardcopy
 - c. Office of Standards Head
 - d. Occupational Safety and Health
- 8) OIC Stands for
 - a. Official Incident Coding
 - b. Office of Internal Criminology
 - c. Officer in Charge
 - d. Nothing – Its Latin for Deceased
- 9) DNA stands for
 - a. Dept of Nuclear Administration
 - b. Deoxyribonucleic acid
 - c. Dicromatic Nuclitic Acid
 - d. Dead – Not Alive
- 10) Although useful, latent fingerprints are not normally able to be recovered after the object they are on has been immersed in water.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Team Discussion:

- 1) Discuss within your team what the term evidence means.
- 2) Discuss within your team if your department should be the ones recovering evidence. Discuss training in this area
- 3) Discuss if all of your diving falls within the OSH exemption.
- 4) Discuss your procedures and training as it relates to 'recovery" and applicability of OSH rules.
- 5) Discuss how the NIMS typing defines your team and what you should be doing under NIMS.

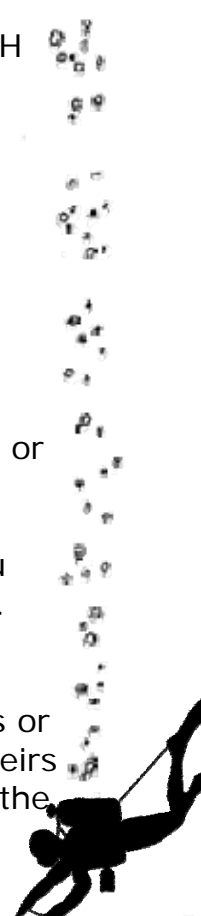
HOME WORK!

VERIFY YOUR DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

Contact your local LE and obtain copies of ALL of their forms and fillable paperwork that is used on or during a crime scene investigation.

Compare those forms and paperwork to what you are presently using and modify yours to fit theirs.

If you are LE or have already done this, contact either or both the next closest dive team to yours or the closest LE agency and get theirs. Compare theirs to yours and make adjustments as necessary in the event you are called to work for or support them.



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.



We welcome all training agencies and organizations to participate.

For details, email PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

answers

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



Try this test. Scroll down and do the quiz as it instructs and find out what movie is your favorite. It really works! This amazing math quiz can likely predict which of 18 films you would enjoy the most. Don't ask me how.

Pick a number from 1-9.

Multiply by 3 and then add 3.

Multiply by 3 again.

Now add the two digits together to find your predicted favorite movie in the list of 15 movies below.

Mine was "Star Wars" - So be honest, and do it before you scroll down to see the list below. It's easy and it works.

Now look up your number in the list below...

1. Gone With The Wind
2. E.T.
3. Beverly Hills Cop
4. Star Wars
5. Forrest Gump
6. The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly
7. Jaws
8. Grease
9. The Joy of Sex with a Goat
10. Casablanca
11. Jurassic Park
12. Shrek
13. Pirates of the Caribbean
14. Titanic
15. Raiders Of The Lost Ark

It is really amazing, isn't it?

NOTES:

