



Public Safety Diver Course Objectives

Public Safety Diver is the internationally renowned training program for public safety personnel. Successful completion of the Public Safety Diver program provides basic methods and skills necessary for a Public Safety Diver to function safely and effectively. Diving personnel are prepared to respond effectively and safely to water incidents.

This program is presented in the classroom, pool, and open-water to allow students to become familiar with the techniques prior to field scenarios. Successful completion of this program is measured in class participation, pool and open water skills, and an end of program comprehensive test. This course is equivalent to an open water scuba certification but addresses concerns specific to the public safety community.

SURFACE SWIMMING/SNORKELING

- Identify different types of snorkeling equipment
- Distinguish between different exposure suits and weight systems
- Describe how to use snorkeling equipment and dive techniques
- Discuss equipment handling, storage and maintenance

SCUBA DIVING

- Identify different types of scuba diving equipment and discuss the role of each piece of equipment used in scuba diving
- Discuss the pre-entry diver check
- Describe the maintenance of equipment and accessories available

USING THE SCUBA EQUIPMENT

- Demonstrate the proper assembly of the scuba unit
- Demonstrate the proper donning of the scuba unit
- Discuss the pre-dive entry checklist
- Demonstrate the proper usage of the dive mask, second stage regulator, and weight system
- Discuss safe entries and exits
- Demonstrate the disassembly of the scuba unit

ADAPTING THE BODY TO WATER AND PRESSURE

- Explain diving fitness and the factors associated with it
- Define Boyle's Law
- Describe the effects of buoyancy, vision, communication, and exposure on the Public Safety Diver
- Discuss the effects of increasing and decreasing pressure
- Explain the procedures of a normal ascent
- Identify different types of air-sharing and describe emergency ascents

DEPTH, TIME, AND THE DIVER

- Explain the effects of breathing compressed air
- Define the following gas laws: Dalton's Law, Henry's Law, and Charles' Law
- Identify the symptoms of decompression sickness
- Understand the use of Public Safety Dive Tables
- Discuss the effects of repetitive dives and the importance of dive planning



THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

- Describe the ocean environment's different types of currents and wave formation and the effects on diving
- Identify underwater marine life and potentially dangerous species both in salt and fresh water
- Review the considerations taken for diving in local bodies of water
- Describe the aquatic environment in which the public safety diver may be required to conduct operations

THE DIVE OPERATION

- Describe how to plan for a dive
- Identify what should be included in a pre-dive briefing
- Review proper equipment preparation
- Discuss the importance of mental and physical preparedness for a dive

BE SURE TO BRING

All students must bring: US Coast Guard approved PFD with knife and whistle, adequate clothing and protection from the environment and pen and paper for note-taking and sketching. Diving students must provide their own equipment: Scuba regulator: recently serviced and environmentally protected with alternate air source (i.e.: octopus, Air II, etc.), timing device, depth and submersible pressure gauges, BC with oral/power inflator, two tanks with current Hydro & VIP, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt and two cutting tools (knife, wire cutters, or trauma shears).

PREREQUISITES

All students must be a member of a public safety agency and at least 18 years of age. Students must read and complete a RSTC medical statement prior to attending class. Any diver answering yes to any contraindication must have the form signed by a physician.

This program is designed for personnel who are physically fit. Participants are encouraged to participate after successfully completing the IADRS Watermanship Test or testing to a fitness level of 13 MET (Metabolic Equivalents) or greater. Participants with aerobic fitness questions or concerns should consult their physician prior to in-water training.



Public Safety Diver Course Schedule

DAY 1

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Instructor Introduction, Medical Forms, Liability Forms, Course Overview, Personal Introductions
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Swim Evaluation
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Lessons 1-4: Snorkeling; Scuba Diving; Using the Scuba Equipment; Adapting the Body to Water and Pressure
5:00 p.m.	Debrief, Data Log Entries, End of Session

DAY 2

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Lessons 5-7: Depth, Time and the Diver; The Aquatic Environment; The Dive Operation
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Pool Sessions 1-3
5:00 p.m.	Debrief, Data Log Entries, End of Session

DAY 3

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Pool Sessions 4-6
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Open Water Session 1
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Open Water Session 2
5:00 p.m.	Debrief, Data Log Entries, End of Session

DAY 4

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Lesson Review
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Open Water Session 3
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Water Session 4
5:00 p.m.	Debrief, Data Log Entries, End of Session

DAY 5

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Final Written Examination
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Water Session 5
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Meal Break
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Open Water Session 6 – Night Dive
8:00 p.m.	Debrief, Data Log Entries, End of Session

Schedule is subject to change