



DIVER PREPARATION (1.1)

Developed by Firefighter Adam Baukol
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- NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL

Dive Equipment Preparation:

The success of a dive call is contingent upon having the proper gear and having it set up properly. The following is a list of the minimum gear each diver will need to properly function during a rescue:



Diver's personal gear bag

- Under Gear – Because LFRA now only dives in dry suits, standard issue duty uniforms may be worn while diving. However, each diver should also have extra warm clothing easily accessible with their dive gear for days of inclement weather. At a minimum this should include a sweatshirt, sweatpants, wool socks, and gloves



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Dry suit, Weight system, gloves, knife, ankle weights, & fins

- Dive Dry Suit
- Weight Harness w/ Proper Weights
- Gloves
- Knife (all divers have two cutting tools, a personal one and one attached to the BCD)
- Ankle Weights
- Fins
- Timing Device



Mask (or Interspiro), Tank, BCD, Regulator w/ depth gauge, submersible pressure gauge & compass

- Mask
- Dive Tank – Assure pressure is 4500psi
- Buoyancy Control Device (BCD)
- Alternate air source (a.k.a. - secondary stage or Air II system)
- Depth gauge, Submersible Pressure gauge, Compass

If assigned to help a diver, assist them with getting their weights and BCD setup near the water. The diver will likely get into their dry suit in the dive truck. Once the diver is near the water and has their weights in place they will need assistance getting the BCD on. Before getting into the BCD it should be checked by the diver and double checked by their dive partner.



TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL

Dive Call Set-up:

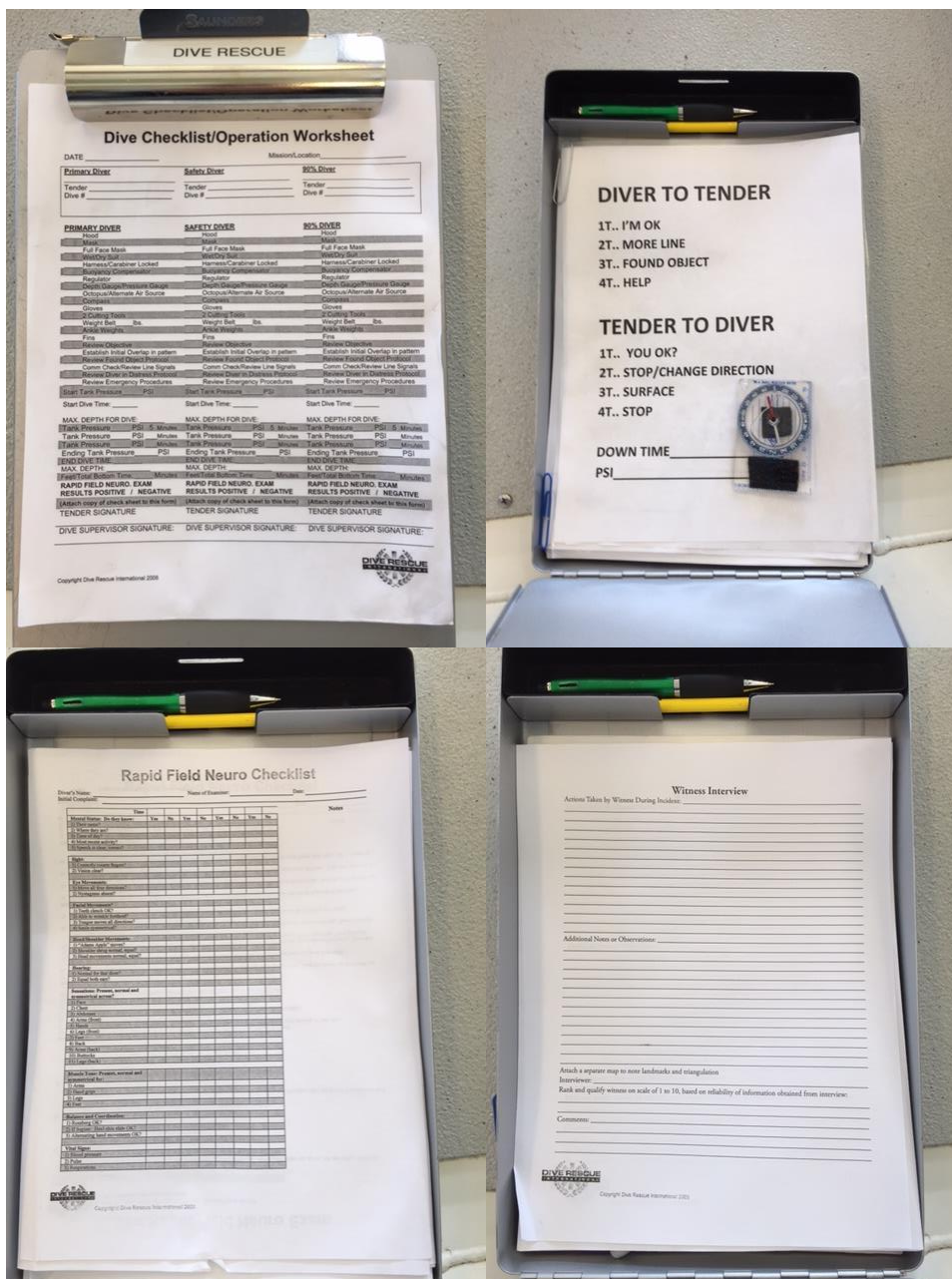
In addition to preparing the divers for entry there are a few tasks that must be completed on all dive calls. Any personnel not assisting the divers will be assigned additional roles within the incident. These are tasks that need to be completed on both shore-based dives and boat-based dives. As a guide use the clipboards kept in the compartment above the BCD set ups on the CO side of the dive truck (shown below)





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Within the clipboard you will find the Dive Checklist, Rapid Field Neuro Sheet, & Witness Interview Sheet along with a compass, pen, pencil, extra paper, and a Diver to Tender signals cheat sheet.



- Dive Checklist/Operations Worksheet – The dive checklist is used as a safety measure for the divers. It contains a gear check list to be completed before the diver enters the water as well as



benchmarks that need to be monitored by the tender. This checklist must be completed for the primary diver, the safety diver, and the 90% diver.

- Rapid Field Neuro Checklist – A rapid field neuro test should be completed prior to a diver entering the water on trainings; **DO NOT** complete it prior to a dive in a rescue situation. However, it should be completed after the diver is out of the water. The checklist also has instructions on the back explaining how to perform each portion of the test.
- Witness Interview Sheet – Witness control is vital to the success of a dive rescue. Witnesses should be separated to avoid story collaboration but also left in view of the victims last known location. The more information that can be obtained from a witness the better. Let them know that even details they don't believe to be relevant should be shared because it may have more impact on the call than they realize.
- Diver/Tender Cheat Sheet – This is a reminder to the tender how they can communicate with the diver if audible communication goes down. As a reminder, the tender should not be given any additional tasks and should have minimal distractions while tending a diver.

The primary objectives for units responding on a dive rescue are getting the divers ready and crowd control. If we can get the divers in the water in a safe and efficient manner and also control witnesses we will have the best chance at a successful rescue.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

This heading includes information about the following:

- NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents