Greetings,

With this issue we grieve for yet another one of our elite members. When I describe our fallen brother as an elite member, I do not mean he belonged to a secret group you never heard of. I mean, we lost one of our own.

We bicker over “turf”, we fire and police, and argue about who should be doing particular jobs. The arguments are always centered over turf. We are not unlike gangs protecting our territory and need to be reminded every now and then that we have NO turf. We have people to serve and protect. It is how we do that which defines us and our agencies.

But when our jobs overlap and we work together in the water, it is how we perform together and support each other when we see how similar each of our teams are.

It is also how we are able to determine just how separate we are from any other form of diving. We ask our divers to do incredible things. We ask them to dive in zero visibility waters, face unknown dangers and risk so that a criminal can be caught or a body recovered for distressed family members.

No one else does what we do. Not everyone who claims to want to do what we do can or will actually do it. They might like the idea of the challenge and get a thrill out of the risk but when tasked with the job, they simply cannot do it.

Every one of us has faced that wall. Those of us who still do the work, perform the underwater tasks, run and train the teams know and recognize the difficulty of the task. We know and have come to accept the lack of respect for the job from those who see us simply as scuba divers. We accept limited or nonexistent budgets and minimal training. We thrill at the chance to get in the water and train or the opportunity to learn something new and different that helps with our job.

When we perform a successful mission, we are rarely interviewed by the media. When we are successful, we recover a car, a weapon or a body. When we are successful, we clear one tiny area of a lake or river and are able to say that the object we are searching for is not there.

When we are successful, every one of our team members and those we are responsible for at a scene - lives. We do this job with no expectation of reward, praise or otherwise. It is nice when it happens but it rarely does.

Yet, we still do the job and we do it relatively well considering what we usually have to work with. Who works like that? Who would accept that kind of risk?

We do. Ours is an elite diving discipline that is challenging, life threatening and ever changing. It takes a rare kind of individual to do the job and to my mind that makes us an elite group. Without you, murders and thieves would have no one working against them when they used water to hide their crimes. Without you, families might never be able to grieve properly for lost loved ones.

On September 14, 2010 we lost one of our own, one of the elite.

Stay Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly

If you would like to discuss this topic or any other, join our discussion group at: CLICK HERE TO JOIN
When is it Time to Give Up the Gear?
By Chris Gabel

It’s like having a dysfunctional relationship. Not exactly something out of Jerry Springer, but close. You’ve had that full face mask for 15 years, it leaks like you’re wearing a colander. You’re still wearing that drysuit you bought in the early nineties and have more patching material than original suit left.

Well, you can go on Dr. Phil’s show and talk about your childhood. Or you could take a long hard look at your dive locker inventory and be honest with yourself.

Let’s assume that you’re not wanting to become (in)famous and take the latter of my two suggestions. First, take a look at your inventory. What do you have? How old is it? When was the last time that you had it (whatever it may be) serviced by a trained professional either on your staff or from a reputable organization that has the proper training (this does not mean Fred’s Bait Shop and Emporium)?

I’m not saying you should simply throw out all of your gear after a certain period of time. What I am saying is that there is a time when gear is serviceable and there is a time for the trash bin to be fed.

Let me give you some examples. I recently received an AGA mask. The second stage regulator was completely corroded internally and the housing was broken. It took about two hours of soaking time and some gentle persuasion to get the regulator parts cleaned. It looked bad, really bad. When I say bad, things were growing on it and it was a lovely shade of green - you get the picture.

However, with some quality time in the ultrasonic cleaner and some elbow grease, the internal regulator parts looked almost new. All we had to do was rebuild the regulator and install a new housing. So something that looked like it should be trashed was completely serviceable and will work for years to come.

Conversely, a friend of mine showed me his Kirby Morgan 17B that had seen much better days. The bent tube was bent all right, bent in a lot more directions than it had been originally. The interior of the regulator was harboring forms of life that some biologists would have been clamoring over to identify and name for themselves.

Although that could be cleaned, the roller lever was bent to the point of breaking, the regulator cover was all but smashed in, and most of the chrome was lost long ago. The shell itself was deeply gouged. The ears below
the de-watering valve were in bad shape. One was broken off and the other chipped.

Suffice to say, it was time to use this helmet as more of a display than a working piece of equipment. Could it have been serviced? Sure, if you wanted to replace a myriad of parts. Basically, in the end, there would have been more parts replaced than original parts remaining.

Although this should be an obvious example, there is always debate on whether or not a piece of diving equipment is worth the time, effort, and investment to service. Some divers seem to have a personal relationship with their equipment and find it increasingly difficult to retire the piece when it’s time.

That said, as in this example; when it is time to retire that full face mask you have two thousand plus dives on, put it on the mantle. No one is saying that you have to throw it in the trash, just don’t put it underwater (at least with anyone in it at the time).

Dry suits are another great example. There are suits that look bad, but are fine structurally. I’ve seen suits that look like they were beaten to death, but under closer inspection, they were relatively new.

In one particular case, the diver was searching for evidence near some pilings and didn’t realize the adhesive properties of creosote. So the suit came out looking like a patch quilt of red vulcanized rubber and black tar. It cleaned up and has been put back in service.

I’ve also had dry suits come in for service that had more dry rot than useful material left. When you flexed the material, you could see the deep grooves of broken rubber. Although the suit at the time may have only had two or three complete breaches that needed to be patched, there were a plethora of others on the brink of structural integrity failure.

“Okay, so much for the horror stories,” you say. “What do I do?”

I’m glad you asked. It comes down to opinion, experience, and self-honesty. If something is questionable, then you have to take a long hard look. Get professional opinions from your staff and from a reputable service center.

I know, you need to keep in mind that a lot of service
centers also deal in new equipment. I understand that hesitation, so get another opinion. Try a different shop and listen to what they have to say. If you think it’s questionable, your divers think the equipment is getting to that retirement stage, and you have at least one service center telling you it’s time to put it in the closet, then replacement time is here.

You also have to answer that age-old debate of how much money you want to spend to the return on investment you’re going to achieve. In the Kirby Morgan 17B example, my friend would be putting more money into fixing the hat than he would be by purchasing a new one.

Not only would he have a helmet that was reliable and safe, he also gets the advantage of a tax break. Yes, believe it or not, you can make money by spending it. I’m not an accountant, so hopefully you have one to discuss your particular situation, but here is the quick fifty-thousand-foot view.

There is a certain time frame that you can depreciate your equipment that actually offsets your income. In other words, you retire that dry suit, buy a new one and take it off of your taxes for a certain number of years. (This is where you need to talk to your accountant. I tried but he gives me a headache when he goes over the details.)

What does this mean to you? Well, you and/or your divers are safer. They’re going to be theoretically happier. Your taxes are lower (from the tax credit) and supermodels will call you on a regular basis praising your good looks and intellect. (Okay, that one was made up.) (Unless they do, and if that’s the case, write me, I want to know your secret!)

The bottom line is that we have a challenging mission that’s, let’s face it, not the safest (I’m waiting for the Discovery Channel to stop doing fishing shows and start getting Mike Rowe to narrate a TV series on some really dangerous underwater work).

All kidding aside, we all need to take gear evaluation seriously and honestly. Sometimes, the equipment may just look ugly but be in great operational shape. Other times, that’s not the case. I know that this economy makes parting with funds a hard thing to do, but it is safe to say that it’s better to replace something now and spend the money than to be sued later by the family of a fallen diver. It’s my personal philosophy that surprises happen on every mission, so let’s keep the equipment in top shape so that gear failure won’t be one of them.

Email your commercial diving equipment maintenance or repair questions to Chris at cgabel@ocean-eye.net.
Friends on the Web:

The River


« Episode: The Madeleine Brand Show for September 20, 2010 CLICK HERE

30 years ago the paths of James Ventrillo and Nancy Rigg literally crossed at the Los Angeles River. Neither would be the same again.

It was 1980. Nancy and her fiancé, Earl Higgins, were taking a walk across a footbridge that spanned the river. It had been the first clear day after a series of violent rain storms. The river was high and moving fast – a rare sight in L.A. They stopped to look at the water and saw – to their horror – a young boy had just fallen in. Earl ran to the water’s edge and tried to save him. He did, but was pulled in, too. Earl wasn’t able to save himself. No one else could, either.

For the next 30 years, Nancy dedicated herself to creating a Swift Water Rescue Program for L.A. and for all of California, a program that trains first responders in river rescue.

She never knew what happened to the boy, James. In this story, Nancy and James meet for the first time since that fateful day 30 years ago.

Nancy created the Drowning Support Network as "a peer support group for people who have lost loved ones in drownings or other aquatic accidents, including when no physical remains have been recovered, or the recovery process has been lengthy and difficult.

Web Resources  River Story Slideshow

EDITOR’S NOTE: Nancy is and has been YOUR voice for swift water rescue whether you know it or not. Aside from her advocacy work, she has created a few web groups that I belong to and find useful and informative. I highly recommend that you join them.

SwiftH2O-News - Swift water/flood rescue information, networking, referral, public safety education, and news coverage.

Please be judicious in using this site to communicate back and forth with very busy people.

This group is open to anyone, particularly rescue personnel who are interested in exchanging information about flood disaster preparedness, swift water/flood rescue training, and public safety education.

Drowning Support Network - The Drowning Support Network (DSN)
offers peer support to those who have lost loved ones in drownings or other aquatic accidents, including when no physical remains have been recovered, or the recovery process has been lengthy and difficult. Water rescue/recovery personnel are also welcome to participate.

We lend one another support and guidance. We promote drowning prevention programs, water rescue training for emergency responders, standards for recovery operations that reduce the burden on grieving families, and we lobby for change in the way all open and moving water related emergencies are managed.

We honor confidentiality. No research. No nonprofit or commercial solicitations allowed.

**HigginsLangleyMemorialAwards**

The Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards honor outstanding achievement in the technical rescue discipline of swift water and flood rescue. They are not heroism awards, but rather recognize preparedness, teamwork, and a job well done, sometimes under extreme conditions, where training is vital to the success of rescue missions, as well as the safety of rescue personnel.

The awards were established in 1993 by members of the Swift water Rescue Committee of the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) in honor of Earl Higgins, a writer and filmmaker who lost his life in 1980 while rescuing a child who was swept down the flood-swollen Los Angeles River, and Jeffrey Langley, a Los Angeles County Fire Department firefighter-paramedic, who lost his life in a helicopter incident in 1993.

**NEWS**

**Bodies Of Two More Central Texas Flooding Victims Found**


*September 14, 2010*

AUSTIN - The bodies of two more people who were killed by floodwater from the torrential rain produced by Tropical Storm Hermine have been found in Central Texas.

The bodies of two more victims of the flooding produced by Tropical Storm Hermine have been recovered, officials said Tuesday.

One of the victims was identified Tuesday as Jennifer Ring, 51, of Austin.

The mother of two had been missing since Sept. 8 when swift water swept her sport utility vehicle down Bull Creek from Farm Road 2222.

Austin police said two fishermen found her body Monday floating in Lake Austin Monday. Her identity was confirmed Tuesday.
Meanwhile, 25 miles to the north in Georgetown, police found the debris-wrapped body of a man Tuesday in a drainage field of Pecan Branch.

A police statement says the cause of his death hasn't been determined but the flooding from Hermine was a factor. His identity hasn't been released.

The discovery of the bodies raised the death toll in Texas to eight, including a 19-year-old woman whose vehicle was swept away by rising water on Sept. 7 in Killeen.

The Devil's playground: Residents suspicious of farm even before Sosilawati's death

http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewIStockNews/articleid/4500415
9/24/2010 By JOSEPH KAOS JR; A FUAD PAIZ

BANTING, Malaysia: Locals in the area have long harboured suspicions about what went on for many months at the now infamous Ladang Gadong farm here where cosmetics queen Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya and her associates are said to have been murdered.

They claimed to had seen strange happenings at the four-hectare plantation belonging to the prime suspect -- the 'Datuk lawyer' -- which is fortified by concrete wall and surrounded by oil palm trees. Residents here also claimed to have noticed characters of all sorts going in and out of the farm -- sometimes in luxury cars.

A local, who spoke to The Malay Mail on the condition of anonymity, said she also noticed some women frequenting the place. "I thought the farm occupants were involved in vice activities," said the local, adding she was shocked to learn gruesome murders had occurred at the farm.

Some locals admitted having known something fishy was going on at the farm, but were afraid to speak up or interfere because they knew the "Datuk lawyer" had "powerful connections".

A Selangor politician, who declined to be named, claimed the "Datuk lawyer" and his brother, also a lawyer, were involved in many land swindling cases and had established a reputation in Banting. "The Datuk used to boast that even the police could not touch them. I know the brothers are lawyers but they may have made their fortune out of possibly cheating and money lending businesses. "The politician added the Datuk's residence in Banting was a sprawling mansion, one which would even put the infamous "Zakaria mansion" -- which belonged to the late former Port Klang assemblyman Datuk Zakaria Deros -- to shame. Several other local politicians were also suspicious as to how the lawyer had amassed such astounding wealth.

Since Saturday night, police have blocked access to the farm. The farm entrance is at least 500m from the main road and is accessible via
a small road. The farm's compound is hardly visible from the main road itself. Within the walls of the farm, said to have been acquired by the lawyer three years ago, were several buildings, including goat and chicken barns. The four victims were believed to have been taken into one of the barns, where they were held captive.

Police said the suspects told them the victims were killed before their bodies were burned and the ashes, including small bone fragments, scattered in a small river next to the farm.

It was also learnt that the four may have had their throats slit, as police are believed to have recovered a knife after searching nearby streams. A watch believed to belong to one of the victims was also recovered by police divers. Police are probing the possibility that as many as nine people could have died at the hands of the suspects over a three-year period. Those feared dead include A. Muthuraja, a businessman from India who disappeared in Banting after visiting Malaysia in January.

Besides the two lawyer brothers, the six other suspects were farmhands -- aged between 19 and 45. Two of them were women.

This morning, the lawyer Datuk was brought by police to his Banting law form to retrieve files. They arrived at the premises about 9.30am. The suspect was escorted by members of the serious crimes team as well as forensics unit. The presence of policemen as well as members of the media had attracted a crowd of curious onlookers.

Malaysia accused may be serial killers: police
http://news.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gUmII5qQWRG7NU6oJ7qFP5SSIAATQ
By M. Jegathesan (AFP) – Sep 14, 2010

TANJUNG SEPAT, Malaysia — Malaysian police were Tuesday investigating suspicions that two lawyer brothers detained over the murder of a cosmetics millionaire may be serial killers with up to eight victims.

Authorities said on the weekend that Sosilawati Lawiya, a 47-year-old entrepreneur, and three of her associates had been murdered, their bodies burnt and the ashes thrown into a river.

Police detained two brothers, both controversial lawyers who have had run-ins with legal authorities, as the main suspects together with six workers at their farm in the central state of Selangor.

Sosilawati, who founded Malaysia's popular Nouvelle Visages line of cosmetics, was reported missing on August 30 along with her driver, lawyer and a bank officer, after going to discuss a land deal with the accused pair. Criminal Investigations Department chief Mohamad Bakri Zinin said the disappearances of four other individuals connected with the brothers were now being probed. "We are carrying out investigations into the disappearance of
four others who are believed to be linked to the main suspects as there are similarities," he told AFP.

Malaysian press said that an Indian woman filed a missing persons report last week over the disappearance of her millionaire lawyer husband who had travelled to Malaysia to meet the brothers in January.

S. Usharani, 24, told the New Straits Times newspaper that her husband, Allal Kanthan Muthu Raja, who owns jewellery shops, plantations, hotels and restaurants in India, disappeared after flying in for the meeting. "My husband had been partners with the brothers for almost 10 years. So when they called on January 16 and asked him to bring along cash, he did not hesitate," she told the paper.

Usharani said she called the brothers when her husband did not return and they told her he had been arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs into Malaysia.

The daily quoted police sources as saying that Allal was one of the four missing persons believed linked to the brothers. The others were three ethnic-Indian Malaysians who had gone missing over the past three years.

Residents of the idyllic fishing village near the site of the murders in the sleepy Tanjung Sepat region were Tuesday still in shock over the gruesome affair.

Mostly fisherman and workers in nearby palm oil estates, residents of Taman Endah, which is famous for its seafood, gathered at a bridge overlooking the Kancung Laut river as police divers searched for remains and murder weapons.

A senior forensic official told AFP that police have so far located a knife and a watch in the murky waters. "We will continue our search until we find more evidence," said the official, who declined to be named.

Villagers said they were shocked at the allegations against the pair who were seen locally as pillars of the community, and known for their charitable works and free legal services for the needy.

G. Krishnan, 60, said he had known the brothers since they were five years old and said their family was a prominent one in the area. "They have helped out foreign Indian workers who have not been paid, they have also highlighted the plight of locals who need assistance from authorities, they also help people out financially," he said.
Newspaper reports said Sosilawati had hired one of the brothers to handle a land deal in Penang state which then fell through, and she had been seeking the return of her money.

A Malaysian Bar Council official told AFP that the two brothers were disbarred in November last year but were appealing against the decision. "The two had misrepresented themselves as advocates and solicitors by furnishing false power-of-attorney documents and in unsavoury conveyancing practices," he said.

Firefighters try to save drowning man


14 Sep, 2010 BY CHRISTOPHER KNAUS AND GLENN ELLARD

Four firefighters will be recommended for bravery awards after they dived into the freezing Shoalhaven River in the dark on Sunday to search for a man trapped in a submerged car.

The 30-year-old driver, of North Nowra, died in the river but a 24-year-old female passenger managed to escape the car and was pulled to shore by two locals - fisherman Peter Stanton and farmer John Bryce, who are also in line for bravery awards.

Police said a white Ford Falcon had been seen being driven wildly along the Princes Highway about 7pm before allegedly rear-ending a green Ford sedan on Nowra Bridge.

The green Ford crashed through the bridge's steel wire fence, down a slope and into the river.

Mr Stanton heard the accident just as he was preparing to leave the river. He drove his boat to the scene and, after hearing calls for help, found a woman clinging to nearby rocks.

Mr Stanton, whose left arm was paralysed in a car accident some years ago, struggled to pull the woman from the water and she soon lost consciousness. "I had her by one arm, she was unconscious and like a dead weight," Mr Stanton
said. "I tried to pull her in but I couldn't. I was just concentrating on holding her and screaming out for help."

Mr Bryce arrived soon after and helped Mr Stanton pull the woman from the river, before diving back into the freezing water to search for other survivors.

Firefighters from the Nowra Fire Brigade arrived at the scene minutes after the crash and also dived into the water to search for survivors. Nowra Fire Brigade deputy captain John Dun went into the water with three other firefighters, Amenatave Kaunicaramaki, Gary Gilbert and Wayne Gerstenberg.

The visibility in the water was extremely poor but they used a trail of bubbles to locate the car. Joined to his colleagues by rope, Mr Gilbert used an open door to enter the car and located the trapped driver using his legs.

The firefighters spent about 40 minutes in the freezing water but were unable to rescue the man.

Honoring a Fallen Officer
Sep 17, 2010 Richmond, Va.

The Virginia State Police paid homage to the life, service and sacrifice of Trooper Mark D. Barrett Friday morning in Chesterfield County.

The Virginia State Police paid homage to the life, service and sacrifice of Trooper Mark D. Barrett Friday morning in Chesterfield County.

More than 1,000 family, friends and first responders gathered at the Church of the Epiphany to honor the Chesterfield County native. Police officers, deputy sheriffs and firefighters from across the Commonwealth joined representatives from the New York State Police, California Highway Patrol and Texas Department of Public Safety to pay their respects to the Virginia State Police trooper.

During the service, Gov. Bob McDonnell presented Barrett’s wife and family with a Virginia flag flown over the state Capitol this week in the trooper’s honor.

Barrett died during a routine training exercise at Lake Anna September 14.

Assigned to patrol in Henrico County and the City of Richmond since graduating from the state police Academy in 2008, he was a member of the State Police Search and Recovery Team. He was participating in the dive team’s annual training when he lost his life.
The cause of his death is still under investigation by the Virginia State Police and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Barrett joined SRT in September 2009. He was one of 20 troopers and supervisors statewide participating in the specialty team that is recognized throughout the East Coast for its superior training and certifications in diving, swift water rescue and evidence recovery. The state police established its first dive team in 1962.

In recent months, SRT has had remarkable success in a series of underwater recoveries related to state and local law-enforcement investigations.

- On June 23 and July 24, the SRT responded to Lake Anna to assist the Spotsylvania County Sheriff’s Office with the recovery of two drowning victims.
- In July 2010, the SRT located and recovered a murder weapon involved in an ongoing state police homicide investigation. Despite zero visibility and limited air supply in 30-feet murky, debris-filled waters, the dive team persevered through five hours of grid searching and successfully recovered the weapon, which is a key piece of evidence needed to resolve the case.
- On July 6, SRT responded to Middlesex County to assist Virginia Marine Resource Commission and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with recovering the body of a woman killed in a tragic boating accident on the Rappahannock River.
- On July 17, SRT members responded to Lake Moomaw in Alleghany and Bath counties at the request of DGIF to recover a drowning victim.
- On July 22, SRT members responded to the Clinch River in Scott County to successfully locate and recover a drowning victim.

“Our divers are incredibly skilled and of great value to our law enforcement community across the Commonwealth,” says Col. W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. “Trooper Barrett’s enthusiasm and proficiency as a diver made him a genuine asset to the team.

“Mark had a passion for serving and helping others. Even though he was only with the state police for a few years, his contributions, professionalism, and positive attitude have had a lasting impact on all those who knew and worked with him. Trooper Mark D. Barrett was and
always will be one of Virginia’s finest. Forever to be missed. Never to be forgotten.”

Barrett is the Department’s 56th member to give his life in the line of duty for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In May 2010, the department will dedicate a portrait of him to the Col. C.W. Woodson Memorial Gallery at the state police Academy in Richmond.

The last department member to die in the line of duty was Motorist Assistance Aide Horace Jarratt. On April 25, 2007, Jarratt was removing debris from Interstate 95 in Chesterfield County when he was struck and killed by a tractor trailer.

Remains of Missing Man Found at Nepaug Reservoir
September 17, 2010

NEW HARTFORD--State Police have recovered what they believe are the remains of a man who was reported Aug. 30 to be walking at the Nepaug Reservoir Dam, appearing distraught and in possession of a gun.

Yesterday, (Sept. 16) police from the Metropolitan District Commission, the agency that oversees the reservoir, provided State Police with possible leads about a location for the missing man. Today, State Police divers entered the water and located the gun. Subsequently, the remains of a male were recovered from the water.

State Police report in a press release that the investigation has led to the conclusion that there is no criminal aspect to the case

‘He will be missed dearly' - Flood victim loved America, had hoped to bring daughter here
Sept. 21, 2010

CORPUS CHRISTI — Kelechi Kingsley Nwogu called co-workers about 5:30 a.m. Monday saying he was going to be late to work. He never made it.

The 35-year-old certified nursing assistant’s car was swept away by a swollen Oso Creek while he was trying to cross the bridge at Weber Road.

Nwogu came to Texas from Nigeria after winning a student visa in a lottery. He trained as a certified nurse aide and was sending money back to Nigeria for his young daughter who he hoped to eventually bring to the United States, relatives said.

“I don’t think he understood the gravity of the water,” said Dr. Maurice Ugwuibe, Nwogu’s cousin, who added that Nigeria often has heavy rains but the soil soaks the water up quickly.

On Tuesday, members of the
Corpus Christi Police Department’s dive team pulled Nwogu’s body from his silver Ford Focus near the edge of Oso Creek, as relatives looked on from the banks.

“He loved America, he loved the freedom and the ability to see or do what he wanted,” Ugwuibe said. Relatives described him as a quiet, gentle person, who was working hard to make a better life for himself and his daughter. “Things were looking up for him, he had a degree, he was going to make something of himself.”

He received certification as a nurse aide at Del Mar College and was hired at the Wooldridge Place Nursing Center in June.

Co-workers describe Nwogu as an enthusiastic worker who showed up early, with a smile on his face, and his gear in order.

That’s why staff members were worried when he never arrived on Monday or called again, said Norma Garcia, staff development coordinator at the home. “We kept calling his phone and leaving messages, but he never answered,” Garcia said. “We thought maybe he had dropped his phone in the rain.”

But then staff members learned through news reports that a silver Ford Focus and a motorist were missing. They called Nwogu’s family Tuesday morning.

Ugwuibe said relatives had thought it was very out of character for Nwogu to not call or come home after work Monday.

About 1 a.m. Tuesday, after waters receded, a police officer spotted the Ford Focus in Oso Creek about 100 yards from the Weber Road bridge.

Relatives identified Nwogu when he was brought to shore. “They are all distraught right now back home,” Ugwuibe said. “He will be missed dearly.”

Ugwuibe said relatives believe Nwogu left his house in King Estates, south of Oso Creek, on his usual route and tried to cross the creek at the South Staples Street Bridge, which was flooded out, before turning back and trying the bridge at Weber Road.

That’s the area from which a witness called police shortly before 6 a.m. Monday saying he saw a silver car pushed off the bridge by high waters, said Lt. Ron Ordner, Corpus Christi Police Department.

About the same time police got a call from Nwogu, saying he was trapped in his car and water was coming inside, Ordner said. He didn’t know how to swim.

Police lost contact with Nwogu.

Rescuers began a six-hour search along Oso Creek using boats from the Flour Bluff Volunteer Fire Department and a helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard.
On Tuesday, a sign in the lobby of the nursing center where Nwogu worked read: “Please keep Kingsley in our prayers.”

Administrators met with staff as soon as they learned Nwogu’s body had been found. “Everybody broke out into tears, we had to end the meeting” said Nancy Foster, executive director. “We are all just heartbroken right now.”

Staff has decided to donate about $1,000 raised for a Christmas party to Nwogu’s family in the hope that a scholarship will be created in Nwogu’s name. “He has made a tremendous impact on our lives and the lives of residents here,” Foster said. “We want to ensure that his name and legacy won’t be forgotten.”

Nwogu, who worked as a merchant marine in Nigeria before coming to America, was inspired by his cousin Ugwuibe, a local doctor, co-workers said. “He said he wanted to make a difference in people’s lives,” Garcia said. “That’s why he got into health care.”

Funeral arrangements are pending. Relatives plan a local service, before flying Nwogu’s body back to Nigeria for burial.

Old car pulled from bottom of lake
Divers find car near bridge, but few clues to whom it belonged or why it was there.
September 24, 2010 By Laurie Edwards Photos by LAURIE EDWARDS | Laker

It took the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department less than 24 hours to locate the owner of a car that apparently sank to the bottom of the lake nine years ago without anyone noticing.

On Monday evening during a routine training dive, members of the Scruggs Dive Team discovered a beige Honda Accord LX about 40 feet off shore from Captain's Quarters near Hales Ford Bridge in about 20 feet of water, according to county officials.

Lt. Steve McGuire of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department said because underwater visibility was poor and the divers did not see any bodies inside, the county waited until Tuesday to remove the vehicle.

County divers used air bags to raise the vehicle and float it near the parking lot behind Ginger's Jewelry. Reggie's Towing Service of Boones Mill towed the car ashore. "The
vehicle has been in the water for quite some time," said McGuire. "It was rusted in several places underneath."

McGuire said the vehicle's identification numbers were checked by the local Department of Motor Vehicles. Nothing turned up, however. McGuire said those numbers are purged from the system after a number of years without use. He then put in an inquiry with a DMV supervisor who performed a title search. The last owner was Jerry Dudley, who lived in the Scruggs area of SML. "Further investigation in that matter found that Mr. Dudley's son was actually the owner of the vehicle, but it was in his father's name," said McGuire.

He said the son filed a stolen vehicle report on June 3, 2001. McGuire said the man had parked the vehicle in the Captain's Quarters parking lot for maintenance. When he returned two days later, it was gone but there was shattered glass on the asphalt. "In recovering the vehicle from the lake, which corroborates with his story, the driver's-side window was missing," said McGuire. "In theory, it appears that the vehicle was vandalized."

The stolen vehicle report indicated a new stereo, in box, was inside. McGuire said someone may have broken into the car to steal the stereo and then put the manual-drive car into neutral to dispose of the evidence, or could have bumped the stick shift by accident.

McGuire said an officer met with Jerry Dudley's son, who was surprised to learn the vehicle had been found after all these years. McGuire said because of the damage, it was a total loss, so there will be no reunion.

Exploding scuba tank kills two tourists
September 24, 2010 NewsCore

AN exploding scuba diving tank killed two Polish tourists and seriously injured two others overnight on a Croatian island, officials said.

The first victim on the southern island of Vis was a 48-year-old Polish woman who died on the spot, a police spokeswoman said.

"The diving tank exploded while it was being unloaded from a boat on the coast in the port of Komiza," the
transport and sea ministry said.

The cause of the blast was most likely a valve that popped out, it said.

Three other injured tourists - two men and a woman - were immediately transported to a hospital in the coastal town of Split on the mainland.

One of them, a 43-year-old man who sustained a head injury, died in the hospital overnight, its surgical department said.

The victims were in a group of 12 Polish tourists who arrived in Komiza to go scuba diving, the ministry said.

Croatia, which has a population of 4.4 million, attracts more than 10 million tourists each year, who mainly visit the country’s Adriatic coast.

**Robotic lifeguard promises quicker rescues**


Sep 25, 2010 By Melica Johnson KATU News and KATU.com Staff

**NEAR DEPOE BAY, Ore.** - Coastal fire chiefs tested a new robotic lifeguard Friday that’s designed to save drowning victims faster than human rescuers.

EMILY, or EMergency Integrated Lifesaving lanYard, is a 24-pound remote-controlled flotation device that can reach speeds up to 28 mph with its electric motor.

EMILY, developed by *Hydronalix*, can be remotely guided to an ocean drowning victim. The victim can grab on to her while she brings the victim back to shore.

The Depoe Bay Fire District is looking to purchase the cutting-edge technology to aid in rescues that heavily rely on U.S. Coast Guard Helicopters.

The developers stress that EMILY is a prototype and her first test Friday morning showed there are still a few bugs to work out.

While she survived a hop over a wave and was able to right herself after landing on her back, she
eventually succumbed to mechanical problems and was washed ashore. But on her second trial run she was successful in reaching the “victim” and bringing him back to shore.

The developers say when EMILY heads to market she’ll be ready and easy for anyone to use.

The remote control is designed so anybody can quickly figure out how to use it. There’s a trigger that controls the speed and a knob allows a person to steer her to a drowning victim.

Oregon Coast rescue officials who watched EMILY’s second and successful trial run say she could shave 15 to 20 minutes off a water rescue.

Currently, EMILY is being used as a research vessel. Researchers are dropping her into bodies of water to gather data in places that are difficult or impossible for humans to get to.

Eventually, the developers want EMILY to work even without an on-shore operator. They say an onboard sonar device would scan for underwater movements a distressed swimmer would make and then respond to the victim.

Related Content
- Woman swept out to sea on Ore. coast
- Coast Guard rescues 3 off Oregon coast
- Coast Guard rescues 4 surfers on Oregon Coast
- Depoe Bay man dies chasing kite

Woman dies after car goes into Pembroke Pines canal
September 27, 2010 Rachel Hatzipanagos, Sun Sentinel

Despite firefighters' frantic efforts to pull a driver out of her partially submerged car, the woman died in the hospital from her injuries, officials said Sunday.

The accident in the 9200 block of Taft Street was reported about 5 a.m. Sunday. The woman was driving a 2005 white Ford west on Taft when her car veered off the road and crashed into a traffic sign, according to Pembroke Pines police.

Then the Ford struck a guardrail and landed on its right side on a canal embankment.

Firefighters arrived to find the front of the car in the water, said Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue spokesman Tom Gallagher.

The driver was never underwater. Crews managed to extract her from the car and took her to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood. Later Sunday, she died from her injuries, police said.
Authorities are not releasing the victim's name until her family can be notified. Speed appears to have been a factor in the crash, which is under investigation, police said.

SA commandos in US to hone skills


28 September 2010 Written by Leon Engelbrech

The US Embassy in Pretoria says a group police Special Task Force commandos are currently in the United States to brush up on crisis response skills and undergo “special forces training”.

"The five-week Crisis Response Training is to provide the tactical officers with skills required to resolve high risk confrontations with criminals and possible terror situations," says embassy spokeswoman Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau. The officers will be equipped with skills they could use with the focus on the minimum force necessary to protect human life, she adds.

These include hands-on outdoor firearms training, raid and assault simulations, as well as other standard crisis response skills for use in an urban environment. "This training represents a continuation of the US government’s commitment to partnership with South Africa," said deputy ambassador Helen La Lime in a media statement. "Our partnership with the SAPS [South African Police Service] is robust, and this training reflects our solid bilateral relationship. We look forward to pursuing more partnership opportunities."

SAPS Special Task Force spokesman Brigadier Lucky Mkhwanazi added that the "training recognises the calibre of our elite Special Task Force officers and also the solid relationship in law enforcement South Africa has with the United States."

It is at last the third such cooperation this year. In March a group of SAPS and South African National Defense Force (SANDF) officers received “certificates of participation” in a three-week training programme designed to enhance their ability to respond to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) materials in the run-up to the June-July World Cup.

“This course prepares the students to execute fundamental hazardous material and emergency management and response procedures that can mitigate loss of life in a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or hazardous material incident,” the embassy said at the time. Course topics and activities included a focus on human rights, trends in terrorism, explosive device awareness, toxic industrial chemicals and materials, CBR risk assessment and awareness, crime scene issues, chemical hazard detection and prediction, triage, search and rescue operations and equipment maintenance.

Ambassador Donald Gips at a ceremony in March said courses “such as this one are evidence of the increased cooperation between our two countries. ... Over the past
year, we conducted several high level meetings with the South African Government on the issue of security. As a result of these meetings, we set the stage for a partnership from which both of our governments could join forces to provide training opportunities in South Africa which would build a corps of curriculum competencies which you could also use to work with other police entities in Africa.

“A team of officers from the State Department’s Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Programme, the ATA office, came and together with their South African counterparts and identified a series of programmes which would be of benefit not only to South Africa itself, but to police services across the continent.”

Gips noted the ATA programme was started in 1983, and since then has provided training and equipment to foreign law enforcement and security organisations to enhance their capabilities and capacity to detect, deter, counter, and investigate terrorist activities. Since its inception, ATA has trained and assisted more than 61,000 foreign law enforcement personnel from 154 countries, including South Africa and this new class of graduates.

At the ceremony, the US also provided the SAPS with a second CBRNE Rapid Response Trailer which is fully equipped for utilisation during any event where a risk of exposure to any CBRNE might exist. The first Rapid Response Trailer was donated in 2004.

The US Embassy also notes that it trained South Africans in the Tactical Management of Special Events in February and made a US$10,000 equipment grant.

In November last year 15 police divers graduated from a specialised underwater explosives training course facilitated through the ATA Office in the United States' Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The three-week Underwater Explosives Incident Countermeasures Course (UWEIC) was designed to provide specialised underwater technical training to law enforcement personnel. “Using lecture, group discussion, and practical exercises, this course augments the abilities of law enforcement dive teams to plan and conduct emergency response to counter suspect underwater improvised explosive devices,” the embassy said in a media release.

US Consul General Jill Derderian said the US additionally provided the police with diving equipment worth $120,000. "I had a chance to speak with the lead trainer, Jon DiMartino, who told me that, of all the groups..."
that he had worked with in more than a dozen different countries around the world, this group was by far the most impressive, and the best organised,” she said at the time. “And, Jon said that he and his fellow trainers learned a great deal themselves from the participants from [the police] and observers from the South African Navy. I think that these mutual benefits speak volumes about the importance of collaboration, and working together.”

Stripper acquitted of killing baby, storing body in freezer
October 4, 2010  Shannon Kari

TORONTO—A 28-year-old Toronto woman has been acquitted of allowing her infant to die and then storing the body in a freezer, in an unusual case where the main prosecution witness was her former pimp who testified from beyond the grave.

Former exotic dancer Ivana Levkovic was on trial in Ontario Superior Court facing charges of not providing reasonable assistance to the delivery of a child and concealment of birth.

Justice Michael Dambrot found there was a reasonable doubt and acquitted Ms. Levkovic of both charges, in part because of inconsistencies in the evidence of Mark Hinds, her former pimp.

“While it is difficult to find a motive for Mr. Hinds to come forward and tell the police an untruthful story when they had no reason to believe a baby had been born at all, and while he appeared in the recording to be distraught and genuine, it is simply impossible for me to accept his version of the birth and the disposal of the baby as true beyond a reasonable doubt,” the judge said.

The evidence of Mr. Hinds in the trial was based on a taped statement he provided to police in 2005, a year before he died of AIDS-related complications. He was granted immunity in exchange for his statement against Ms. Levkovic.

Mr. Hinds told police that Ms. Levkovic gave birth to a child in 2002 in the toilet of their basement apartment. The child was left in the toilet to die and then put inside a garbage bag and kept in a freezer for nearly three years, Mr. Hinds alleged. In early 2005, he claimed to have dumped the corpse into the Humber River. Police divers combed the area after Mr. Hinds contacted police, but no remains were discovered. “His version cries out for cross-examination, cross-examination that cannot be,” said Judge Dambrot about the statement to police of the late Mr. Hinds.

Ms. Levkovic testified during the trial that she suspected in the late fall of 2003 that she was pregnant. When she informed Mr. Hinds, he told her to take Aspirin and return to work as a stripper. The night she gave birth, she said Mr. Hinds pressed her stomach and then removed the infant, as she was in shock. The infant appeared to be stillborn, Ms. Levkovic testified.
The defendant, who came to Canada from Croatia as a child, said she fell asleep and after waking up the next day, she was sent back to work by Mr. Hinds.

She testified she never saw the infant again. After feeling ill at the strip club, she went to the hospital and never returned to the apartment she shared with Mr. Hinds, the court heard.

In assessing the testimony of the defendant, the judge said, “there is much in it that I believe,” about the circumstances of the birth. “I am not certain that her version of the birth and disposal of the baby is entirely true, but no more am I certain that the version told by Mr. Hinds is true,” noted Judge Dambrot, in his verdict ruling released Monday. The judge added that was possible it was a miscarriage and the child was not born alive.

Ms. Levkovic expressed relief outside court after she was acquitted. “I am glad the truth came out,” she said.

**Water a great idea – a big Bay canal clean-up**


Oct 4 2010 by Abby Alford, South Wales Echo

ROAD signs, shopping trolleys, a vacuum cleaner and a wheelbarrow were all recovered by police divers during a special canal clean-up operation.

So much rubbish was pulled from the waterways around Atlantic Wharf, in Cardiff Bay, that police managed to fill two flat-bed trucks in a few hours.

Residents have welcomed the clear-out which police hoped would make the area not only look better, but feel safer.

Rubbish in the waterways has been made a PACT priority after problems were highlighted by people living nearby.

Former chairman of the Atlantic Wharf Residents’ Association Bernard James said people recorded where the rubbish was and were able to point out the worst spots to divers from South Wales Police’s specialist search and recovery team.

Suitcases, a stereo and a bike were also recovered from the canal near The Wharf pub during the operation.

Divers were assisted by the Probation Service and offenders working under the community payback unpaid work scheme.

Psco Jeff Hughes, who brought in the divers, said the significant quantity of waste had accumulated in just 16 months since the last clean-up during which tyres, boots and pieces of board were recovered.
He said: “We are determined to keep the waterways clean and the operation was very much the result of partnership working between the police, the probation service, and the Atlantic Wharf Residents’ Association.

“Not only has a large amount of rubbish been removed from the canals, but this type of work helps to raise awareness of the need to dispose of rubbish accordingly.”

Mr James said: “This and past clean-ups are all about teamwork. We work very closely with the police to ensure that the local waterways can be enjoyed by residents.”

The canal clear-out on Friday ended a busy week for the specialist search and recovery team, whose work also includes the recovery of bodies. Last week the team assisted with Ryder Cup preparations and conducted coastal patrols in Porthcawl.

Specialist search and recovery team sergeant Peter Allen said: “The operation has been very successful and is a great example of how partnership working can improve the quality of life of local residents. “We are a versatile team and the officers really enjoy working on local proactive operations like this. It’s brilliant to assist our neighbourhood colleagues and help solve problems.”

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

5 things to know about critical stress
September 13, 2010 By Marc Colbeck
www.criticalstress.com

Unfortunately, the skills we need to deal with difficult situations are not typically taught in our training. **Being a responder is a difficult and stressful occupation. Regardless of your level of training, experience, or the number of hours you spend working each week, you are bound to be affected by the experiences you have.**

Dealing with those experiences requires understanding, patience, acceptance, and compassion. Unfortunately, these are not skills we typically learn about in our training — at least not in relation to dealing with stress.

I worked full time as a critical care paramedic until I experienced post traumatic stress disorder. After that I left clinical practice and pursued an MA in Counseling Psychology.

A part of my work now is presenting emergency services personnel with information about the skills we need in order to deal with what we experience in our work. Below I've summarized five important, but not commonly known points that will help you to process the stressful experiences that might have negatively affected you.

1. **It's not your fault.**
One of the issues that people sometimes bring to the
table when they are suffering with critical stress is the belief that somehow they are weak or inadequate — otherwise, they would not have been so negatively affected by the stress they experienced.

This is a painful belief, and it can get in the way of healing. The reality is that as emergency service workers, we are normal people in very un-normal situations.

Watching people suffer is a painful experience for well adjusted people. In fact, if you do not feel affected by what you experience on the job, then you are likely avoiding a great deal of thought and emotion that needs processing.

Just as no one is surprised when a paramedic has a back injury from lifting a heavy patient in difficult conditions, no one should be surprised when we have an emotional injury from witnessing a patient suffering.

An important aspect of recovery is realizing that being affected, or 'injured' by the psycho-emotional demands of the job is entirely normal and, in fact, something that you should expect to experience as a paramedic repeatedly (although hopefully not too often) through your career. It's normal.

It's also important to be aware that each of us has inherited an ability to deal with stress. Research shows that our ability to handle stress is partially inherited from our parents (1), and because of that, is beyond our control. It is also strongly affected by our experiences as children.

Adults who suffered abuse or other difficulties as children have a harder time dealing with stress when they are adults (2, 3) Since most issues that harm children psychologically are beyond their coping abilities, it isn't fair to blame them for being harmed by them. That's an attitude that is easy to adopt towards others, but is often more difficult for us to accept in relation to ourselves. Yet it is no less valid when we apply that reasoning to our own lives and experiences.

So there are two important points to keep in mind. The first is that being affected by the stressors of the job is normal. The second is that much of what determines how strongly we will be affected is out of our control, and therefore not fair to blame ourselves for.

2. The problem doesn't come from "stressors,"
If you read any standard book on stress you will read that...
there are objective experiences in life that are universally considered to be 'stressors.'

Losing a loved one is considered a stressor; so is speaking in public or changing jobs. In fact, there are ranked lists of these universal stressors and you can find many examples of these lists online.

Theoretically, you could take such a list, tick off each stressor that you are experiencing, and add up your score to determine the objective 'stress load' that you are currently experiencing. Unfortunately, this sort of practice is naive; reality is more complicated than that.

The reason it's naive is easy to see if you take a moment to question the belief that each of us experiences the same effects from the same stressors.

For example, I love public speaking. I don't find it stressful at all. A divorce might be stressful for some, but it could come as a welcome resolution for others. Similarly, changing jobs could just as well be a wonderful new adventure, as it could actually be a dreaded, stressful experience.

What's the difference? The difference comes from the attitude of the person experiencing the stressor. So it isn't reasonable to assume that any one specific situation will universally result in a specific response (or group of responses) in everyone that experiences it. I'm sure you've had calls that affected you deeply, but not your partner (or visa versa). We all know that medics with kids are often hit harder by pediatric calls than those without.

So, although we know that being a paramedic is a stressful occupation, we can't say that any specific experience will invariably result in a specific response. It is how we process the stressful events that we experience that make the difference in how we are affected by stressors, not the stressors themselves.

3. The solution doesn't come from outside.
If the negative reactions we are having to stressful situations do not come from the external stressors, then our solution to dealing with our reactions can't be primarily focused on external events either. Dealing with our stress has to happen primarily through internal processes.

Of course, it is very important to realize that we need to be safe first. An abused spouse needs to be safe before they can deal with their emotional reaction to the abuse. A traumatized medic needs to be taken off the road in order to have the necessary safety to start dealing with
their internal issues. However, once that essential safety has been secured, it is time to focus on the internal work that needs to be done.

This work is deeply personal. As medics we are immersed in the western medical model which is very mechanical.

If the bone is broken, an external expert diagnoses and repairs it. Similarly, if we have chest pain, it is an external expert that diagnosis and repairs it. A patient having a myocardial infarction can, if they wish, be a passive observer of the medical system that fixes them.

This isn't the way inner healing works though. The constellation of beliefs, habits and processes that make up our internal world is deeply personal and vividly unique. My coronary arteries are remarkably similar to yours, but my hopes, strengths, fears, injuries, habits and beliefs are not, and there is no radiographic or chemical test that anyone can perform to map out our internal world for anyone else to interpret.

The best that someone outside of us can do is to help us to focus on our own exploration and to give support and feedback from an external perspective. Even if someone else could have a detailed understanding of all of our issues (which is so unlikely that it is all but impossible), we are still the ones that have to process those issues and find our own understanding and resolution. At the end of the day, only we can do our internal work.

4. The solution probably isn't what you expect.
As medical professionals we depend very much on our ability to logically and rationally discover and interpret the signs and symptoms our patients present us with, and then to devise and implement a treatment plan. This is what Ann Weiser Cornell, author of The Radical Acceptance of Everything, calls the 'doing/fixing' mode of activity.

This mode is the basis of our technical, scientific way of interacting with our world and it is wildly successful for dealing with our external realities. It repairs broken bones, builds bridges and splits atoms. In fact much of our success as a weak and poorly defended species is due to our mastery of this way of solving problems.

However, the doing/fixing approach doesn't work well with internal problems. It is a truism that people don't mind changing; they just don't like being changed.

There is something within us all that resists being told how we should change. If you tell me I should clean up my room, I'm likely to resist doing that, just to
prove that I don't have to listen to you. This is true whether it is someone else telling us to change, or us telling ourselves to change. None of us like a drill sergeant, even if that drill sergeant is internal.

The solution lies instead in adopting a 'being/allowing' attitude towards our internal experiences. Our bodies and minds have a wisdom of their own, and the process of healing our psycho-emotional injuries consists primarily of recognizing those injuries exist — bringing them to the attention of our conscious minds — accepting their existence, and taking a gentle 'hands-off' approach; stepping back and allowing resolution to arise and occur spontaneously, and without our intentional intervention(s).

This is a very different relationship with our 'problems' than we are used to having, and it is more of an attitude than it is an intentional process.

Like most attitudes, it is more easily caught than taught, and getting the groove of this approach is one area in which a trained therapist can help.

5. Things will never be perfect.
Our last point comes full circle around back to our first. Stress is normal. And in extreme situations, extreme stress is normal.

Many of us hold back in the expectation that we will jump into our lives once conditions are 'perfect'. We'll be able to be great medics (or spouses, or parents, or whatever) once the world isn't bugging us so much.

Unfortunately, it will never happen. If you're waiting for the rain to stop before going out for your walk, you're going to be trapped forever, because when it comes to life, there are no long, uninterrupted, sunny seasons.

The trick is in accepting that conditions will never be perfect, and getting on with what we need to do despite that unfortunate fact.

We learn to accept conditions as they are, and commit to what we need to do regardless. However, this isn't an aggressive or forceful
way of relating to ourselves. I'm not suggesting that you need to whip yourself into unsafe conditions. Instead, it is a mature acceptance of the reality of what is, and a gentle resolution to engage, despite less than optimal conditions.

Stress affects us all, and sometimes it can be overwhelming. Knowing these basic points about dealing with stress might help you to better cope when those difficult calls affect you.

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About the author
Marc Colbeck is a paramedic instructor who currently offers free online counseling for emergency services personnel dealing with critical stress as a part of his practicum to complete an MA in Counseling Psychology. His website is www.criticalstress.com, and he can be reached via marc.colbeck@safe-mail.net.

FOUND ON THE WEB
Freshwater turtles in “catastrophic decline”
http://www.world-science.net/othernews/100915_turtles
Sept. 16, 2010 - Courtesy of Conservation International & World Science staff

A perfect storm of habitat loss, hunting and a pet trade is decimating the world’s freshwater turtle populations, according to an analysis from wildlife protection group Conservation International.

Urgent action is needed to save the reptiles, say researchers affiliated with the Arlington, Va.-based organization. A drop in many of the world’s turtle species, they add, is evidence that mismanagement of vital freshwater ecosystems is causing deep and damaging environmental impacts that will affect people and wildlife alike.

The Myanmar River turtle has seen its population plunge to fewer than a dozen mature animals due to egg collection and habitat destruction, researchers say. The last few specimens are being raised at a zoo in Mandalay, Myanmar for re-introduction.
“The key problems these animals are facing are changes to their habitats – in particular because of the damming of the rivers where they live for hydro-electricity, on top of hunting for food and a very lucrative trade in rare turtles as pets,” said Peter Paul van Dijk, director of the group’s Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Conservation Program.

“More than 40 percent of the planet’s freshwater turtle species are threatened with extinction – making them among the most threatened groups of animals on the planet,” he added. “Their decline is an indicator that the freshwater ecosystems that millions of people rely on for irrigation, food and water are being damaged in a manner that could have dire consequences for people and turtles alike.”

The most threatened freshwater turtle, with only four individuals left alive anywhere, is the Red River giant softshell turtle of Vietnam, van Dijk said. Two captive specimens in China were brought together three years ago and produced eggs, but these failed to develop. Another, lone animal confined in Hoan Kiem lake in downtown Hanoi is revered as symbol of Vietnam’s independence. And the last animal remaining in the wild – also in Vietnam – became the reluctant subject of a hostage drama when his home reservoir burst its dam in November 2008, was washed downriver, and was caught by a fisherman who only released it back to its native wetland after protracted negotiations with conservationists.

Other particularly threatened species identified are the red-crowned river turtle of India, whose small males take on spectacular colors for courtship season; the Myanmar River turtle of Myanmar, of which some juveniles are being raised in a zoo for re-introduction to the wild; the Roti snake-necked turtle of Indonesia, whose populations were decimated by the Western pet trade; and the huge Southeast Asian giant softshell turtle, which weighs up to a quarter ton.

“Failure to protect the source, flow and delivery of freshwater in an interconnected way, results in a loss of benefits to species and people,” said Tracy Farrell, leader of Conservation International’s Freshwater team. “We have already lost half of our wetlands and dammed two thirds of our major rivers. Damming in one place can have dramatic consequences downstream, and if we don’t consider the whole of a system we threaten not only important populations of animals – like turtles – but also human populations that rely on these waterways.”

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Hello Mark,

I am an editor at Jones & Bartlett Learning.

I am currently editing a textbook titled Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice, in which one of the chapters is devoted to marine fire investigations. The chapter focuses on vessels under 65 feet and discusses how to investigate fires on these vessels. I have been looking for a marine fire investigator to contribute a Voices of Experience essay for this chapter. The Voices of Experience essays are true stories written in the contributors’ own words.

If you are a marine fire investigator and might be interested in this project. Thank you in advance for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
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**FOUND ON THE WEB**

**PoliceGrantsHelp 101**  
http://www.policegrantshelp.com/grants101

**STRATEGIC POSITIONING**

*Look at your budget:* Departments can sabotage themselves because of how line items are listed in their budget. There is a clause attached to most Federal and State grants that state you cannot supplant funds. This means that if your budget has a line item for a new vehicle and you get a grant, which gives you that vehicle, you will still have to buy that vehicle. You can not transfer the money intended for that vehicle to another line item and use the money budgeted for something else.

*Set aside funding for matching dollars:* While it may surprise you, countless fire and EMS agencies choose not to pursue grant funding for department projects. Whether your department needs NFPA compliant PPE, new fire apparatus, advanced life support equipment or funding to hire additional staff, grants can help bridge the gap between a budget shortfall and successfully funding your project. Most grant programs have specific eligibility requirements and are often intended to provide funding for a particular operational area of your department. Careful grant research will ensure that your department’s project meets any program requirements.

*Record and Report:* Something very critical to grants is statistical data and record keeping. Keep a record of everything that your department does and keep it updated regularly. In addition, maintain reporting to state and federal agencies is necessary component in the grants process. This is especially true in law enforcement where how much you are legible to receive is based on a formula used by computing your Uniform Crime Index numbers vs. your population.

*Use generic terms like “equipment” in budget line items. This way if you get the grant you will still be able to use the money towards another piece of equipment and would not be violating the supplanting rule.*

**FORMING A GRANTS TEAM**

*Pick the internal right skillsets:* Look for interested motivated members of your organization. A good team will consist of someone from each the following areas: accounting, operations, training, and management.

*Think about the external impact:* Who and what are the organizations and individuals that will be impacted if your department is awarded a grant. Individuals and organizations who have had a chance to participate in planning are much more likely to cooperate with efforts to run a grant program and a lot less likely to file a complaint with the city council or media.

*Try to identify those who will benefit from the proposed project and leverage these organizations for input*

**DUNS NUMBER**

*Duns Universal Numbering System:* Since 2003, the Federal Government has required all applicants and recipients of Federal funding to obtain a DUNS number. The Duns Universal Numbering System allows the government to track where federal money is being distributed and how its being utilized.
It can take 24 – 48 hours to get a DUNS number. If you need one call 866-705-5711 or apply online at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform

NIMS COMPLIANCE

**National Incident Management System Compliance:**
NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable to all jurisdictional levels across all functional disciplines. Departments must participate in NIMS in order to qualify for DHS grants after October 1, 2006.

The intent of NIMS has two parts. 1) Be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazard scenarios, regardless of size or complexity and 2) improve coordination and corporation between public and private entities in a variety of domestic incident management activities. It is highly recommended that departments follow current and future instructions issued by the NIMS Integration Center. You should be full prepared in any grant application to discuss and relate your agency’s compliance with NIMS.

*National Incident Management System, An Introduction – IS 700 is offered free of charge through the Emergency Management Institute*

FINDING FUNDING

**Grant Resources:** There are many grants available to law enforcement agencies throughout the year. These grants are from the Federal, State, and Local governments as well as Corporations and Foundations.

Once your grant strategy has been set up and identified, it’s time to search for available grant opportunities. Use the PoliceGrantsHelp.com search engine to locate...
available grants. You can perform a search by category (Federal, State or Corporate) or by selecting your state on our interactive grant map to show all available opportunities. Search results will provide a brief synopsis of the grant, as well as: application period dates, contact information, links to the grant homepage, and more. We are constantly looking for new and exciting grant opportunities to provide you with the most up to date grant information available. If you know of any grants that aren’t currently appearing in our database, please submit them to us.

_Having trouble locating a grant to fit your strategy? Contact our PoliceGrantsHelp Experts_

**Risk Management Information and Resources for Nonprofits**

If your SAR organization is not yet covered by insurance that offers medical and accident coverage for your volunteers or other needs, you might want to look at the information on this website. You can do a free self-assessment and read up on state liability laws in addition to plenty of other information on insurance basics.

_http://www.insuranceformynonprofit.org/_

**Great Deals for Nonprofits**

Lots of hardware and software companies offer really fantastic deals to nonprofit organizations through an online market called TechSoup. Computers, routers, servers, software are all offered for very low prices. For example, MS Office Professional, which retails for $730 is offered for $31; Adobe Acrobat 9 Professional goes for $45. Anyone who has a nonprofit and needs computers and software will find this really useful.

_http://home.techsoup.org/pages/default.aspx_

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**Public Health Emergency Website**

This website services as a portal for anyone involved in a public health emergency or medical, natural or other disaster. The site compiles government documents from a broad range of federal agencies that have anything to do with health and disease, emergency management, environment, families, homeland security.

_http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/pages/default.aspx_

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**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_

Compiled by Ernest S Campbell, MD

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**Physical Fitness for Sports Divers**

[DOWNLOAD this article]

**Introduction**

The underwater environment causes a diver to be at a tremendous disadvantage due to:
--the difficulty in propulsion through the surrounding water;

--through rapid heat loss to water generally colder than body temperature;

--breathing gas of compressed density;

--the diver uses an altered cardiorespiratory system from a changed environment;

--in order to prevent damage to air-containing spaces in the body, the diver has to accommodate to changes in gas volume and pressure;

--accommodation to the effects of the partial pressure of gases that can cause toxic, narcotic, stimulatory and gas solubility changes to bodily functions.

Divers have to have a reasonable level of physical and physiological fitness because of the obligatory stresses of the underwater environment. They must also be free of other limitations compromising safety in the underwater milieu. For safe diving, the millions of recreational and sport divers should maintain a reasonable level of fitness, the medical requirements for sport diving not being stringent.

Exercise is any activity that raises the resting oxygen consumption above basal levels. Most parts of the body contain a functional reserve which can be called up during exercise--this applies particularly to the heart. Limitations imposed by heart disease may be often assessed by measurements of maximal heart performance. Many experts have emphasized the need to measure cardiac reserve through exercise stress testing, and this has become a useful clinical means for checking physical reserve while diving. Since heart disease is one of the common causes of sudden death underwater, fitness for sport diving must include assessment for heart disease risk.

*Underwater swimmers with full scuba gear have been tested for the amount of work involved; divers must be in good physical condition to do a sustained swim at 1 knot (101 feet/minute, or about a 1.15 mph). One met = 3.5 ml/kg/minute, and since VO2 Max is 40, a diver swimming 1 knot should be able to reach and sustain 13 mets on the treadmill. (Some feel that this speed is quite slow and 13 mets is high.)

Swimming at about 60 % of maximum [about 24 ml/kg/min] is slightly below the anaerobic threshold can be sustained for long periods of time since it is not lactate producing.

See Travel Exercises
Physicians planning to evaluate sport divers require a basic knowledge of the physiology of diving and a fundamental understanding of the diving environment. It is helpful if the physician is also a diver himself. Assessment of fitness for diving must consider physical conditioning as well as limitations imposed by medical conditions.

The medical evaluation should consider absolute, relative, or temporary disqualifying conditions as well as excessive smoking and substance abuse. Poor muscle tone, lack of conditioning, obesity and other evidence of dietary indiscretion should be a stimulus to advise the diver about fitness. A medical condition that could injure the diver or his buddy diver should disqualify the diver. The buddy-diver system is the universally recognized practice of pairing scuba divers for mutual safety and implies that each of the pair is fully capable of providing effective aid to the other. A limitation in one of the buddy pairs upsets this balance of safety.

Obesity represents a hazard to divers because of the common lack of adequate physical condition in obese individuals and because inert gas exchange and its relationship to decompression sickness are modified unfavorably. Total body fat of less the 22% in males, and less than 28% in females is desirable.

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**DIVER FITNESS AND AGE**

The majority of elderly people do not exercise adequately. For diving good physical condition is essential. Although physical capacity is known to decline with age (Bruce et al 1974; Raven and Mitchell 1980), it is unclear whether the loss of physical capacity is related to age or to the inactivity common in older individuals. Because of the reduced physical activity experienced by older individuals, there is a deconditioning effect. Most elderly divers are not capable of sustaining the work load of younger individuals. The reduction in physical capacity must be accounted for when accompanying older divers. Studies in older athletes suggest that the decline in physical capacity with age can be minimized by continued physical training (Heath 1980). Elderly divers should be healthy, and possess a level of physical condition that allows them to dive safely.

Chronic diseases known to be of higher incidence in the elderly present special problems in diving. A significant and important problem in the elderly is the high incidence of cardiovascular disease. Atherosclerosis can affect flow to the brain, heart, kidneys, or skeletal muscles. These disorders may go undetected and high exercise demands induced by swimming with diving gear may result in inadequate oxygen supply and abnormal function of a tissue or organ. Of most importance is the presence of coronary atherosclerosis with coronary artery disease, heart attack or sudden death may occur in unfit divers with coronary disease. Avoidance of serious cardiac problems while diving can be achieved through appropriate screening evaluation (Linaweaver 1977). Exercise testing is a useful means of screening in elderly individuals prior to instituting a diving program.

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**Young Divers**
Fitness considerations for young divers are directed towards emotional maturity, ability to learn and understand the requisite physiologic, physical and environmental data needed for safe diving, and towards strength requirements necessary for handling diving equipment (Dembert and Keith 1986).

Sport diving imposes no legal limits on age, but most diver training organizations require candidates to be 15 years old for full certification. Training is provided to younger candidates who receive conditional certification until age 15. Children divers should use dive profiles which minimize risk for decompression sickness to eliminate concern for injury to growing tissues. Equipment must be properly fitted to the young diver. Equipment designed for adults may be unsafe for a child of small body habitus. Individual variation in development, strength, maturity, and intelligence is too wide to set a fixed minimum age for diving. Customarily, 15 years is the usual minimum age for sport diving in the United States.

**WOMEN AND DIVING**

Many women have learned the sport of diving, and are active divers. Although there are few limitations to diving in women when compared to men, most diving physicians recommend against diving while pregnant. Other than pregnancy, there are no unique concerns regarding fitness of women divers.

Women usually have a lower strength capacity than men and a lower aerobic capacity. Women have a higher percentage of body fat. Sedentary women approximate 25% body fat while trained athletic women reach 10-15%. Trained males however average 7-10% body fat. Increased body fat in women provides better insulation from heat loss during diving, and increased buoyancy.

In assessing fitness to dive in women, the same considerations applied to men regarding general health, physical capacity, mental stability, and training should be used.

**EAR PROBLEMS IN DIVING**

Ear problems are the most common medical problems in diving. The ears, including the ear drums must be healthy in order to dive safely. Fitness evaluation requires a thorough evaluation of the ears. Aural barotrauma (ear squeeze) occurs in all divers, and can be avoided by careful attention to ear clearing during descent, and the maintenance of open air passages in the ears and throat. A perforated ear drum, chronic ear infections, and unilateral hearing loss should make a candidate unfit to dive.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

Avoidance of pulmonary overpressure injury (barotrauma) is a primary concern of all divers, because of the potential seriousness of the lung conditions which can result from diving (Linaweaver 1963). Pneumothorax, mediastinal emphysema, and traumatic arterial gas embolism can occur from lung overpressure. In arterial gas embolism the overpressure forces air into the arterial circulation, and usually to the brain where it can obstruct
blood flow. This event leads to permanent brain damage unless treated rapidly by recompression therapy (Linaweaver 1963). To prevent injury divers must be free of spontaneous pneumothorax, chronic pulmonary disease and asthma.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Divers with neck and back problems may develop nerve injuries from heavy lifting, climbing and other diving related activities. Some individuals with severe disease of the spine (herniated disc), may be unable to dive safely due to limitation of motion or severe pain.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Cardiovascular fitness in diver candidates requires the absence of heart disease, hypertension and disease of the blood vessels. The use of drugs for CV disorders may also render a diver unfit.

Coronary Artery Disease

Coronary artery disease is the most highly prevalent, life-threatening disease in the United States. Its seriousness and prevalence demand special mention in divers. Two million people per year develop this disease, and over 500,000 people per year die from coronary artery disease (American Heart Association 1981). The basic abnormality of coronary disease is partial or complete obstruction of one or more arteries which supply the heart. In the presence of increased work demands, the heart becomes oxygen starved.

There are several consequences of inadequate oxygen supply to the heart during diving. Oxygen deprived heart muscle may develop sudden reduction in pumping function.. Marked shortness of breath and lung congestion will occur with exercise. Although coronary heart disease is usually manifested by chest pain in most afflicted people, the most troublesome person with coronary disease is the person who has no symptoms but who develops marked oxygen deprivation detected only by electrocardiogram. Such people are at greater risk for sudden death since they developed no premonitory symptoms when oxygen deprivation to the heart occurs.

Heart Surgery and Angioplasty

Patients with successful coronary bypass surgery or balloon angioplasty have returned to sport diving. Careful evaluation of the diver’s condition after recovery from surgery and successful demonstration of acceptable exercise capacity will allow some individuals to return to diving.

Detection of heart disease is particularly important in divers beyond the age of 40. Significant coronary disease may exist without symptoms, only to become evident during stress induced by exercise or anxiety. Diving is an environment which can provoke the first symptoms of coronary disease. In many cases the first symptom is sudden death.

Testing for coronary heart disease can be done by exercise stress testing, and should be done in diver candidates over the age of 40 or those with known or suspected coronary heart disease (Bruce and Hornstein 1969).
Sudden Unconsciousness

Two medical conditions which deserve special mention are seizure disorders and insulin dependent diabetes. Both of these chronic disorders can increase the risk for sudden unexpected unconsciousness underwater.

References


* EVENTS *

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.

October 22, 2010 Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings
Nov 5, 2010 Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
Nov 12, 2010 Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

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

October 14, 2010 - October 17, 2010
Association of Forensic Document Examiners
Annual Symposium
Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ     afde.org

20th Annual Wooden Boat Show
The 16 Oct. 2010
Waterfront - Georgetown, SC, USA

EuroTek. 2010 - The Advanced Diving Conference & equipment Exhibition
From 16 Oct. 2010 to 17 Oct. 2010
International Convention Centre - Birmingham, England

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/

UHMS Northeast Chapter Meeting
Diving Medicine
Friday, October 22, 2010  12 Noon - 6:00 p.m.

The Northeast Chapter of the UHMS has put together an impressive list of dive medicine and dive safety speakers for Friday, Oct 22nd, as part of its full Annual Meeting weekend.. Hope to see you there!

Dawn Salka, ACHRN, EMT-B
NE Chapter, Secretary
Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society
845-806-6337     nyvan7@aol.com

Homeland Security / Search and Rescue
Chris Demaise, New Jersey State Police Dive Team

- Diving Fatalities
  Dan Orr, DAN, President and CEO

- Seasickness, The Diver’s Nemesis
  Owen J. O’Neil, MD, Medical Dir., Hyperbaric Dept., Phelps Memorial, Sleepy Hollow NY

- Underwater Photography Submissions
- Decompression and Wreck Diving...Fun and Then Some
  Captain Hank Garvin, owner/operator, R/V Garloo

- US Navy Diving Manual Rev. 6: What does it mean to clinical HBO facilities
  Rob Sheffield, Chair, NFPA Technical Committee Chair on Hyperbaric Facilities

- What’s New with Decompression Sickness? New Insights into the Pathophysiology
  Christopher Louge, MD,

- DCS Clearance back to dive. Current standard of care
  Evidence based medicine, Fitness for diving. Return to duty
  Nick Vandemoer, MD

- Contaminated Water Diving: Procedures and Medical Considerations
  Eric Hexdall, RN, CHRN, Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine

Bally’s Hotel, Park Place and Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ
$25 registration:
For further information: George Perdrizet, President
George.Perdrizet@atlantichealth.org
Norma Cooney, V.P., Program Chair     cooneyn@upstate.edu
The University of Tennessee National Forensic Academy will host a Best Practices Symposium for forensic and crime scene investigators, December 9-10 in Nashville.

The symposium, to be held at the Hilton Nashville Downtown, will allow attendees to network with other law enforcement officials while learning about the National Institute for Justice Rape Kit Backlog Initiative and the Forensic Technology Center for Excellence.

Among the speakers will be renowned forensic investigator Dr. Henry Lee. The UT National Forensic Academy is a program of the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center headquartered in Oak Ridge, Tenn. For information: www.nfa.tennessee.edu.

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
December 9-10, 2010

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
**Vintage Scuba**

Scuba 2000 is special because we have an incredible resource in Alec's vintage gear collection. Not only is it considered one of the largest and finest anywhere but Alec shares his knowledge, experiences and his vintage equipment with anyone interested. Many of the items are very unique and a lot are extremely rare. In this spot we'll feature a piece of scuba memorabilia whether scuba gear, personal gear, scuba diving accessories or maybe one of Alec's hundreds of scuba related items like Sea Hunt promotional pieces, movie posters, diving games and lots more. It's sure to interest you and many will amaze you.

Here's an old mask that looks like it's out of World War II. Actually that's not too far off since it was from the late 50's. It was made by Dacor and was unique because of the method used to mount the lenses. They were held in place by a steel, threaded insert. When you wanted to clean or replace your lenses, you simply unscrewed the steel ring on the outside and the lens fell out. It was sealed with a thin rubber ring. Unfortunately this same feature also made the mask very low visibility. The lenses were also not held in the same plane (that is, they moved back and forth) so the vision was distorted. Besides it looked pretty goofy just at a time when masks were starting to become more modern and sleek.

It's a fairly rare item because of its unpopularity and because the rubber skirt was quite thin and rotted easily. One in good condition might be worth $100. See lots of neat old scuba stuff at www.vintagescuba.com

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**PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education**

**PSDM-CE-77**

1. An advocate for swiftwater training has been
   a. Nancy Rigg
   b. Mark Phillips
   c. James Earl Jones
   d. Angelina Jolie

2. Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards honor
   a. Nobel prize recipients
   b. Veterans
   c. Heroes
   d. Teamwork and preparedness of rescue teams

3. Support for survivors of drowning victims can be found at the
   a. Red Cross
   b. Salvation Army
   c. Local fire department
   d. Drowning Support Network

4. Testing for coronary heart disease should be done in diver candidates
   a. with gout
   b. who are married
   c. who experience stress
   d. over the age of 40

5. Divers with seizure disorders and insulin dependent diabetics are
   a. Kept safe underwater by Americans with Disabilities laws
b. At high risk for unexpected unconsciousness underwater
c. Not certifiable
d. Not interested in joining a dive team

6. Obesity
   a. is necessary for warmth
   b. is good for women divers
   c. is fine if diving with two buddies
   d. is a hazard for divers

7. Elderly divers
   a. usually have less physical capacity
   b. are a danger to themselves and others
   c. are smarter than new divers
   d. create soylent green

8. When properly hydrated, urine will appear
   a. solid
   b. dark and stinky
   c. clear and copious
   d. unexpectedly

9. Scuba cylinders should be hydrostatically tested
   a. every 2 years
   b. every 5 years
   c. annually
   d. Every 4 years

10. Scuba equipment should be visually inspected
    a. Every 5 years
    b. annually
    c. before each use
    d. according to agency SOP/SOG

Team Discussion:

1. Search manufacturer websites and list technician service certification courses that are available for the gear your team uses.

2. Assign a team to perform a cost, benefit, risk analysis for certifying personnel to perform in-house equipment service for your team. As a team, discuss the parameters the group should follow.

3. Define the criteria your team uses to evaluate when to remove diving or safety equipment from service.

4. If budget constraints are an issue, hold a team discussion on how safety will remain a priority as equipment begins to age.

5. If team members supply their own equipment, how will your team address safety issues regarding personal gear in terms of:
   a. Age
   b. Required maintenance
   c. Quality
   d. Upkeep/cleaning

6. Design a poll to choose both your best and worst dressed team members in the following categories:
   a. Uniform
   b. Dive gear
   c. Swim suits
   d. Were you really paying attention?
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 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

Issue 77 CE Answers

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