



PSDiver Monthly 86

Volume 6 * Issue 86

July 2011

**National PSD
Training Council
Coming Soon???**

**MORE WATER
RESCUER FATALITIES!**

**Diving in Polluted
Waters**

APATHY... Who Cares?

FROM THE WEB:

***Good Swimmers Drown
More Often Than Non-
swimmers***

***Fecal Indicator Bacteria
& Sanitary Water Quality***

NEWS

EVENTS

DIVING MEDICINE

CONTINUING ED.



Apathy -

The absence of interest in or enthusiasm for things generally considered interesting or moving

Is this you? Have you lost enthusiasm for our genre of diving? Has the absence of funding or training time caused you to lose interest? Are you on the team but reluctant to be ***on the team?***

I have to admit, that has been me in the past. It is almost me now. I fight everyday to stay positive and focused on PSDiving for my own team and even struggle occasionally to keep up the magazine and discussion groups. I dread training days now because I know that no one is going to be happy. I take the time to put together training that is within the time restraints I have to work with and never seem to reach my training goals. No one shows up to training happy. The team is unhappy with the lack of funding and nonexistent training and equipment budget. They feel abandoned to some extent. Why should they care if their own administration doesn't seem to care?

But let a child drown. That same team will do whatever it takes to find the child. They will work with local LE, the media, each other and they always manage to get the job done.

If I sit back and watch, I see the skill sets they have learned over the years; skills they do not realize they have because they have nothing to which they can compare themselves. I see the deficiencies too. I know, and they know, that they could be better. But it takes administrative backing, training time and funding to get better. This does not mean that we cannot improve unless we get those things; it just

means we are limited in what we can do and how we can train.

How can we change this? To answer this question, we need to look at some of the underlying problems that exist.

Who exactly ARE we if we are PSDivers? Are we a water response team? Are we a flood response team? Are we an underwater rescue or recovery team? Do we work as an underwater crime scene investigation team? In my opinion, we are ALL those teams. The work we do is, and should be all encompassing relative to water. The only possible separation might be a true Swift Water Rescue team.

We can all probably agree on the above and we can all probably agree that few outside our PSD world know what we do or the risks we incur. That includes our own administrations. Dive teams are typically looked on as scuba divers who get to practice their hobby at work. One of my old bosses actually complained that all we ever did was go diving and look at fish....

If that is a common attitude, it is easy to see how they become apathetic about their dive teams. When monies are so tight, why should they give more to a small team when there are more pressing needs within the department? If they do not know what we do, nothing will ever change!

It takes a meeting of minds to change attitudes. That starts with you. It means you have to show interest. You have to be enthusiastic about what you are doing. If you are not, you will never see change.

But you are not readily willing to do that extra work when there is little or no support coming from your administration. Unless or until you have a high visibility water fatality in your area, the general public does not know your team exists. Your department has no standards to hold to other than some of NFPA and Exemptions in OSHA that confuse them. At least Haz-Mat has support from SARA, DOT and OSHA. They can even bill for their services. What can the dive team do?

Minimum staffing, Personal Protective Equipment, Skill and Training Requirements – sound familiar? It should. These are terms used in most aspects of public safety service. These are also the things we place as most important in our main jobs. Staffing, PPE and Training - why do we have to fight so much to get these for our dive teams?

Could it be as simple as a lack of written consensus standards? If there was a document that outlined the minimum requirements for a dive team that included staffing, equipment and training AND was recognized by a national training council of agencies specializing in that particular field, do you think that would get some attention? Sure it would. How could it not? A document recognizing PSDiving and the minimal requirements would have to be recognized by administrators in regard to their liability and responsibility to the members of the team.

This could be a two edged sword for some. It could be that a department would see the importance of such a document but not have the financial ability to fund a team. Their best course of action would be to disband that team. Of course, if that was the case, the team probably was better off being disbanded and just needed an excuse.

On the other hand, by recognizing the need and validity of a consensus standard, a department would have justification for the expenditure of time, budget and resources for the team. That justification would be something other than the complaints of the team members themselves.

There is in motion right now - a potential meeting of the PSD Training agencies at the next DEMA. This was suggested by DRI and ERDI has offered to host the meeting and provide the meeting room. If this happens and it goes as well as it could, the conclusion of the meeting will be the foundation for a **National PSD Training Council** and the beginnings of a Minimum PSD Consensus Standard. This possibility alone has rejuvenated me.

We have argued about OSHA for years. We have questioned the origination of the applicable NFPA standards and NOW have the opportunity to witness a true beginning of a PSD Standard without the shadow of for profit corruption. If the agencies are sincere and work together for OUR common good, I believe we and they will all benefit.

Apathy is for those who just don't give a damn. If you got this far in my rant, you cannot claim it!

Keep your eyes open, you ears to the ground and voice your opinions on this new development. We were HEARD and we are making PROGRESS! Now we are watching to see which agencies actually step up...

Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly

**If you would like to discuss
this topic or any other, join
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NEWS

Rescuer drowns on duty - Tragedy as she tries to find occupants in submerged car

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Rescuer+drowns+duty/5034932/story.html>

July 1, 2011 By Niamh Scallan and Alyssa Noel, The Province

The body of a 29-year-old search-and-rescue worker who drowned while on duty Wednesday was pulled from a river near Creston on Thursday afternoon.

Sheilah Sweatman of Ymir was a member of the Kootenay Swift Water Specialists Team that was trying to determine if there were any occupants of a submerged car spotted in the Goat River, about 10 kilometres south of Creston.

RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said Sweatman fell from a swift-water boat and drowned in the river at around 4: 15 p.m. on Wednesday. "It is a tragic



day for B.C. Volunteer Search and Rescue Team [SAR] members from across B.C.," Moskaluk said, adding that Sweatman's death marked the first for a SAR worker while on duty.



Volunteer Sheilah Sweatman, 29, found her work with the search-and-rescue team 'exciting.'
Photograph by: Submitted, The Province

Sweatman, originally from Manitoba, had two years' experience with SAR. Over the last year, she wrote on the Callout Search and Rescue blog about her love of ski touring and animals. She spoke about her hobbies - painting, felt work and gardening -and shared her passion for search-and-rescue and her ambition to one day train a dog for SAR. "It's exciting to know that somebody needs you and that you're there to help and with the training that we get to be a professional that is there to assist," said Sweatman.

Meanwhile, volunteer rescuers from across the province tried to come to terms with the tragic news. "We've already sent our condolences to the team," said Tim Jones, team leader with North Shore Search and Rescue.

"We're going to have a delegation that goes to the memorial because it affects all of us. You don't want to see someone die. It affects the whole community."

Volunteers put in hundreds of hours each year training for risky missions that they could be called to at any time. "It's an extraordinary time commitment," Jones said. "That's one of the reasons we don't have a particularly large team. The average member [volunteers] 500 to 1,000 hours a year." RCMP and search crews worked all day Thursday to identify and recover the submerged vehicle.



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According to Moskaluk, the car is "of a similar description" to the white 1997 Pontiac Sunfire driven by Alana Chipesia, a 23-year-old resident of the Lower Kootenay band reserve, who has been missing since June 18. Mounties have not confirmed that the submerged vehicle matches Chipesia's Pontiac.

Crews were unsuccessful in removing the car and planned to resume the recovery this morning. Although they don't get paid, the provincial emergency program does have insurance to cover SAR workers who are hurt or killed while on duty.

In certain situations, Workplace B.C. also investigates a volunteer's death. Investigators were on the scene Thursday because there were firms with paid employees involved in the ill-fated rescue.

A spokeswoman said they still have to determine whether Sweatman was considered a worker under their terms.

The B.C. Search and Rescue Association said there are more than 2,500 search-and-rescue volunteers who work in 80 communities across the province. The volunteers donate more than 100,000 hours of their time each year, amounting to about \$5 million in wages annually.

Two Men Drown Trying To Save Friend

<http://www.newschannel5.com/story/15022311/two-men-drowned-trying-to-save-friend>

Jul 04, 2011

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Two men were killed in Putnam County trying to help a friend who was having problems getting out of the water.

The incident happened at Burgess Falls State



Park on Sunday around 6 p.m.

Officials said the men, both in their mid-twenties, jumped into the water to come to the aid of a female companion who could not swim and was in distress in the water. Others in the area were able to pull the woman to safety, but neither of the men surfaced.

Emergency crews from the Tennessee State Parks and both Putnam and White Counties were called in to help.

Search and rescue divers found one man quickly, but emergency crews were unable to revive him.

The other victim's body was found just after 8 p.m.

Officials did not believe alcohol was a factor. The names of the victims were not available.

Police officer drowns in Vancouver Man who drowned Sunday has been identified as Wash. police Officer Michael M. Molzahn

<http://www.policeone.com/off-duty/articles/3906956-Police-officer-drowns-in-Vancouver/>

July 05, 2011 By Dave Kern The Vancouver Columbian

VANCOUVER — The man who drowned Sunday afternoon in the Columbia River has been identified as Battle Ground, Wash., police Officer Michael M. Molzahn, 41, of Battle Ground. "He was really liked in the community. A terrific motor officer," Chief Robert

Richardson said Monday. "Everybody in Battle Ground knew Mike."

Authorities said Molzahn jumped from a boat in the Columbia River off Government Island and struggled against the current and the cold.

Those in the boat could not reach him, and later a person on a personal water craft reached him and took him to the island.

A Portland fireboat took Molzahn to Vancouver's Steamboat Landing, where efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. The accident happened about 5:30 p.m.

He was hired by the Battle Ground Police Department in March 2000 after serving for at least two years as a reserve officer, said Lt. Roy Butler. He was a detective for four years and had served four years as a motor officer on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

He had prior law enforcement experience in California, Butler said. "He always rode the bike, even when it rained," the chief said.

He leaves a wife, an 18-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter.

Web Exclusive: 70-year-old hero

<http://www.cbs19.tv/story/15032388/web-exclusive-70-year-old-hero>

VIDEO ON SITE

Jul 06, 2011 By Courtney Friedman

A 70-year-old man is being hailed a hero for saving two children from drowning in the ocean in New Jersey.

"The little girl was waving her hands 'help us, help us.'"

He says he didn't think twice about running into the ocean near park place in Atlantic City Monday when he saw a 10-year-old girl and a 12 year-old boy struggling in the water, almost 100 yards off shore.



70-year-old Lou Rosso, just home from the hospital Tuesday.

He swam to them as fast as he could. "Well immediately they pulled me under as I figured they probably would."

He says he shook them off, came up behind them and tried to push them. He says he almost lost the little girl several times.

"She went under the water completely two or three times and I had to reach down and grab her by her shirt and pull her out."

Rosso says after almost 10 minutes he started to struggle too. "I was at a point where I could hardly breathe myself."

As Rosso tried to rescue the kids and stay alive himself, a life guard and the fire department's water rescue unit responded to 911 calls from the beach.

With floats and a jetski they got everyone out safe and to the hospital. "Just seems like three seconds, boom, boom, boom where you're all like okay." But Rosso wasn't okay. "For 15, 20 minutes on the beach here he'd been given a bit of oxygen and of course he'd swallowed a bit of the water."

His wife says, "I thought maybe he was going to die right in front of me because he looked so bad."

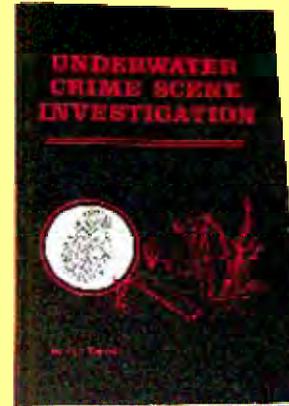
The beach patrols says there were 111 rescues that day, but Rosso can't stop thinking about one. "It keeps going through my mind that I had a life in each hand."

Responders rescue girl from boat propeller in Va.

"I don't want to drown," the girl told a responding firefighter-paramedic
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/water-rescue/articles/1074511-Responders-rescue-girl-from-boat-propeller-in-Va/>

July 06, 2011 By Kathy Adams The Virginian-Pilot

"Underwater Crime Scene Investigation" By Eric Tackett



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VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Amy Mack bobbed in the Chesapeake Bay on Thursday afternoon, holding up the head of a scared 12-year-old girl. "It hurts," Mack later recalled the girl telling her. "I don't want to drown."

"We've got you," the firefighter paramedic responded. "We're not going to let anything else happen to you."

Down below, police divers puzzled over how to free the girl's impaled leg from between two boat propellers, where it had become lodged in an accident about 2 p.m. Mack said she'd never seen anything like it.

Neither had police diver George E. Yates. Yates had been home relaxing for his birthday, with his police scanner on as always, when he heard the news and flew from his house, diving gear in tow. When he arrived — about 200 to 300 yards offshore from the beach access at Ocean Shore Avenue and Great Neck Road — he found medics, firefighters and police in a handful of boats. They were working to keep the pre-teen's head out of the water while trying to free her leg from the recreational craft.

Yates pulled on his gear and dove into the murky water. When he finally got a good look at the girl's leg, propeller embedded deep inside, he knew immediately it wasn't going to come free, he said later.

Police took the girls' friends and family from the recreational boat to a nearby marina, while Yates, three other police divers and two civilian mechanics devised a way to remove the propeller from the boat's hull.

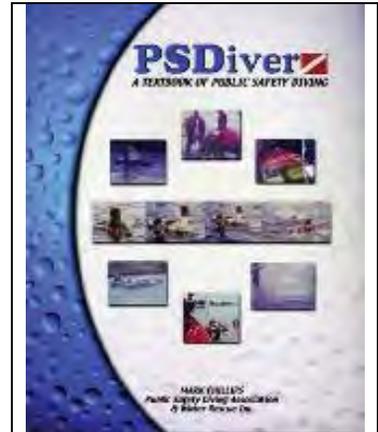
They gave the girl a diving mask so she could breath while rescue efforts continued. Mack stayed by her side in the water.

The minutes crept by, punctuated by swells that rocked the boat every 30 to 40 seconds, endangering the divers and evoking a fresh cry of pain from the girl, her rescuers recalled. They knew they had to move fast but didn't want to risk more damage to her leg.

Finally, after about 90 minutes, the mechanics and divers freed the propeller and pulled the girl from the water. They rushed her, propeller still embedded, to a waiting ambulance, which took her to a nearby field to be picked up by Sentara's Nightingale air ambulance.

The girl was in critical condition at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital on Thursday evening but is expected to survive, said Division Chief Bruce Nedelka, a spokesman for the Department of Emergency Medical Services. Officials did not release her name.

It was unclear Thursday how the girl got stuck, but the Police Department's Marine Patrol Unit is investigating,



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said Battalion Chief Tim Riley, a Fire Department spokesman. An update is expected today.

Yates said it was one of the most difficult rescues he's ever undertaken. "I've freed lines, ropes, buoys from propellers, but not a person," he said. "We were just afraid for her because we could hear her pain."

Yates, who's also a dive instructor for the Police Department, said he'll probably add training on freeing swimmers from boat propellers after Thursday's rescue.

It wasn't exactly how he expected to spend his birthday, but he didn't care, he said. "I'm glad I could help somebody."

13 Year old boy Suffers Facial Injuries When Hit by Propeller in Ponte Vedra Waterway

http://www.floridachildinjurylawyer.com/boating_accidents/
July 7, 2011 Posted by [David A. Wolf](#) | [Permalink](#)



M&J Engineering
12520 Kirkham Ct #1
San Diego CA 92064
United States
Phone 1.858.748.9442
Fax 1.858.679.1632

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation 2010 Boating Accidents Statistical Report, there were 668 boating accidents and 79 boating related fatalities. Many of these deaths and injuries incurred were due to victims falling overboard and drowning.

For example, a 13 year-old boy suffered facial injuries from a boat's propellers in Jacksonville, Florida. The boy was operating the boat in a Ponte Vedra waterway. The teenager lost control of the boat and either fell out or jumped into a canal located near Granada Lane, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife investigators. The boat's propellers struck the boy in the face when he was in the water. He was air-lifted to Shands Jacksonville for treatment according to First Coast News.

The State of Florida has taken the initiative to educate boaters about boating accident prevention. The FWC, in conjunction with the National Safe Boating Council, Bombardier Recreational Products, Inc., West Marine, the U.S. Coast Guard and others have launched a statewide safety campaign for boaters called the "Wear It Florida." This campaign encourages boaters to wear life safety jackets anytime they are on the water, and educates



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boaters about the convenience of the generally unknown inflatable life jackets. The FCW is a firm believer that many boating fatalities can be prevented by the use of wearing a life jacket.

Fire Department Hones Its Water Rescue Response

<http://portwashington.patch.com/articles/fire-department-hones-its-water-rescue-response>

The Port Washington Fire Department practiced a water rescue drill at the Brewers Capri Marina in Manorhaven.

July 7, 2011 By [Melissa L. Leon](#)

Residents enjoying their watercraft this summer should rest assured that, in the case of an emergency, the [Port Washington Fire Department](#) is prepared to respond at the first sign of distress.



The Fire Department set up and attended a water rescue drill at the [Brewers Capri Marina](#) in Manorhaven in June. "This drill consisted of a boat fire at the fuel dock with victims in the water," said Brian Waterson, Fire Department 2nd Assistant Chief.

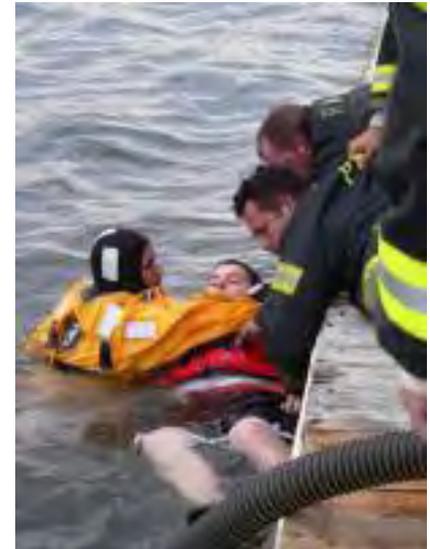
"Upon arrival, [as part of the drill] the Fire Department found a boat fire in close proximity to the fuel dock and three victims with serious injuries in the water. The Fire Department had to rescue the victims, extinguish the boat fire and protect the fuel dock."

Members from the Fire Department's four companies – Atlantic Hook & Ladder, Protection Engine, Flower Hill Hose and Fire Medics – were involved in the drill, Waterson said.

"Port Washington is a peninsula and there are a lot of boats in the waters around this community," Waterson said. "It is important to train and practice these skills so that when the real incident takes place, everyone is on their toes."

"On calls, all four companies respond as the Port Washington Fire Department and work together. Therefore, we practice like the real thing," he explained.

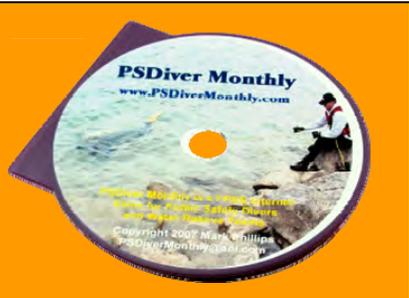
During the water rescue drill, Atlantic Hook & Ladder was responsible for the water rescue of the victims, Protection and Flower Hill were responsible for extinguishing the fire,



and Fire Medics treated the victims and transported them to the hospital, Waterson said. While there were "victims" in the water during the drill, those victims were not physically harmed or actually taken to the hospital during the drill, he added. The Fire Department practiced treating and transporting said victims.

Equipment used during the drill included exposure suits, portable pumps, a portable boat, ropes and stokes baskets. "Exposure suits keep rescuers dry and warm in colder waters," Waterson explained. "They also keep the rescuer afloat and have a harness attached so that they can be hooked up to a rope."

"A stokes basket is designed to be used where there are obstacles to movement or other hazards, for example: in confined spaces, on slopes, in wooded terrain or in the water," Waterson continued. "Typically it is shaped to accommodate a victim in a [face-up position](#) and it is used in [search-and-rescue](#) operations. The person is strapped into the basket, making the safe evacuation possible. The person generally is further protected by a backboard and a [cervical collar](#), so as to immobilize the person and



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prevent further injury. A stokes basket essentially is a stretcher with sides, or just a raised edge."

The Port Washington Fire Department is always looking for more members. Anyone interested in joining should call 516-883-2200, ext. 570.

To learn more about the Port Washington Fire Department, visit www.pwfd.com.

Alameda Reestablishes Water Rescue Program

<http://alameda.patch.com/articles/alameda-reinstates-water-rescue-program>

July 7, 2011 By [Alison Moodie](#)

The Alameda Fire Department is working to have its water rescue operations up and running by the fall.



The Alameda Fire Department's water rescue program is in the process of being reestablished following the [drowning off Crown Beach](#) on Memorial Day.

The department has purchased a new rescue boat and is training swimmers to ensure firefighters are better equipped for future rescues.

The water rescue program, created in the late 1990s, was eliminated during the 2008-09 fiscal year. The fire and rescue boats were put out of service, and swimmers no longer received certified training.

"It would be an understatement to declare this deactivation an error," wrote city manager John Russo in a report presented to Alameda's city council Tuesday night. "The city must have an effective and resourceful method of responding to water-related incidents."

The city has been [widely criticized](#) for its response to Raymond Zack's death, after the apparently suicidal [Alameda resident walked into the water](#) off Crown Beach on May 30.

The fire department has since trained 20 rescue swimmers and plans to train and certify another 16 in the next fiscal year, according to the department's acting deputy chief of operations, Daren Olson.

The department also recently purchased a 14-foot inflatable boat. Boat operator training will take place in July and August to ensure the program is "up and running by Sept. 1," Olson said.

The boat will be kept at [Fire Station One](#) and will remain inflated at all times. Ideally, says Olson, boats would be stationed at other stations as well for even more rapid deployment, but budget constraints don't allow it. "This was the next best thing we could come up with," Olson said. "We're confident this is a good service."

Russo said there is a possibility that another boat will be donated to the department. He said he would have more details about the second boat when council reconvenes in September.

Council Member Beverly Johnson said the fire department should also consider leasing or making use of equipment and facilities in other areas in and around Alameda.

"When we're looking at this we need to identify other resources we can take advantage of," Johnson said. "We need to remember there are other resources in the region."

Olson stressed the program would regularly come under review and be improved on. "This is, and will always be, a work in progress," Olson said. "We will continue to make it a cutting edge service."

Jon Spangler, a speaker at the meeting, asked that the details behind the demise of the previous water rescue program be made public. "I don't think it is necessary to



hold that off until the investigation is complete," Spangler said.

But Russo said the investigation was not about assigning blame. Rather, it will provide a detailed account of what went wrong on Memorial Day. "The [report] is not to assess blame, but to have a set of common facts that we can all agree on," Russo said.

He said the information behind the program's elimination would be included in the report compiled by former State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva.

[Alameda hired Grijalva](#) to review the chronology of events on the day of the drowning and draw up a list of recommendations on how to improve service in the future. "We're looking for a professional, detailed menu of options for council to look at to decide policy changes," Russo said.

Council member Doug deHaan said he was concerned that the department was acting too hastily in implementing the new measures and compiling the report so soon after the Memorial Day drowning.



"We need to sit down and reflect," he said. "We need to look at safety and all regular operations, and try to bring everything back in line. A stand down is a good thing, not a negative thing."

Pedernales firefighter accused of dumping girlfriend's body in Lake Travis

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Pedernales-firefighter-is-accused-of-dumping-girlfriends-body-in-Lake-Travis-125390338.html>

July 11, 2011 JIM BERGAMO / KVUE News

SPICEWOOD, TX -- A local firefighter is charged with tampering with physical evidence after his girlfriend's body is found in Lake Travis.

A body was found floating in Lake Travis near Tatum Cove on the east shoreline of Pace Bend Park at 11:37 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6. Mark Warren, an Assistant Chief with the Pedernales Fire Department, was among the first to respond the call of a water rescue.

"It was a sad situation, and we could not tell at the time if it was male or female," said Warren.

Monday the body was identified as that of 22-year-old Veronica Navarro. Travis County Sheriff's investigators say Navarro's body was wrapped in a tent that was weighed down with



a paint can.

"No way did we know that there was any connection to anybody," said Warren. "Much less a connection to one of the members of our department."

However, there was a connection. Travis County Sheriff's investigators say 27-year-old Joe Carr, who had worked for the Pedernales Fire Department since 2008, is a suspect in Navarro's murder.

"My immediate reaction was it must be a mistake," said Warren. "It can't be Joe. I was in disbelief."

Investigators say Navarro's family last heard from her on June 27, nine days before her body was found.

Investigators are not sure how long her body was in the water, but Carr's fellow fighters say he was the same old Joe just hours before their discovery.

"The 4th and the 5th he worked 24-hour shifts both days," said Warren. "He got off on the 6th at 9 in the morning. The 6th was when the call came in, and we went to retrieve the body in the lake."



Warren says it's hard to imagine one of their own committing such a crime.

"That is probably one of the worst things you could possibly do," said Warren. "There would not be any firefighter or any person I know that would not think that was a despicable, terrible thing to do. That would be horrible."

Warren says Carr did not show up for work on Sunday. Warren says it's the first time Carr has been AWOL.

Carr was detained while trying to enter Canada. He was detained on charges of tampering with physical evidence, but investigators say more charges are pending.

First responders learn how to save themselves, others in swiftly moving water

[First responders learn how to save themselves, others in swiftly moving water - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/lifestyles/s_746340.html#ixzz1RuYNDXil)

July 12, 2011 By Mitch Fryer, LEADER TIMES

REDBANK — Mahoning Creek started out looking slow, low and flat, but for firefighters and EMTs taking a swift water rescue class this past weekend, the creek quickly turned into something more. "It's life or death — do this or you're dead," swift water rescue instructor Bob Barbarini told his group before they went into the water.

"The first thing you want to do is understand what moving water is."

Barbarini, a Saxonburg firefighter and an instructor for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Bucks County Community College, the two organizations sponsoring the training exercise, gave some more instruction. "That's what's going to bring you home," he said.

About 25 first responders from Armstrong County and surrounding counties' fire departments and ambulance services participated in the training to improve their swift water rescue skills through the certification course.

They put on helmets and pfd's, or personal flotation devices, and grabbed ropes and throwbags — 75 feet of rope in a bag that floats — and waited downstream in the outflow area waters of the Mahoning Dam for the level to rise and get fast.

Sirens blasted as the Army Corps of Engineers began to let water out of the dam. Moments later the water was fast enough to carry out the rescue operations.

"We're all going to be swimming, going through the fast part of the creek," said Dayton firefighter Jim Marshall. "We'll be trying to get the throwbags and ropes out."

Swift water rescue teaches how to respond to a swimmer in trouble, a capsized boat or flooding with people trapped on their houses or in their houses, according to Barbarini.

Related:
Body at Pace Bend identified, homicide suspect arrested
Two bodies in Lake Travis, one suspicious
TCSO investigating suspicious death at Pace Bend

During the instruction, the responders are put in the water and they first learn how to rescue themselves and how to get themselves out of trouble.

"The first thing is getting the person to be rescued into a pfd and helmet if they're not in one," Barbarini said. "You try to get them to come to you, or you throw them a rope or a bag — something they can grab — and we pull them to shore."

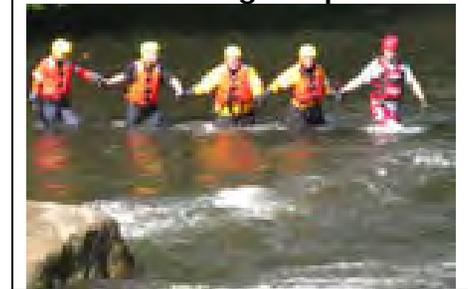
"You try to reach them from shore. If that doesn't work, we get a boat. If that doesn't work, we got to get wet. Getting wet is the last resort. We want to stay dry."

The safety of the responder is most important, Barbarini said.

"The ultimate goal is that we come home and hopefully with a completed rescue," he said. "I



Grabbing a rope



Forming a line



Saving a swimmer
Photos by Mitch Fryer Leader Times

teach them the difference between rescues and recoveries. A lot of firefighters are killed trying to go after bodies. I emphasize that more than anybody."

Jayson Hoovler, a deputy warden with the fish and boat commission, said the largest emergencies in the state are water related.

"We're always close to water," Hoovler said. "Everything floods."

"This is the first step of training. When they're done with this training, they're going to be able to safely perform swift water rescue and protect themselves if they do go in the water," he said.

The class was held just seven weeks after a man drowned and two others survived when their canoe capsized and they were thrown into the high and swift-moving waters of Mahoning Creek.

Diver's presence a stroke of fortune in saving swimmers

<http://www.ngnews.ca/News/Local/2011-07-14/article-2654505/Diver%26rsquo%3Bs-presence-a-stroke-of-fortune-in-saving-swimmers/1>

July 14, 2011 [Sueann Musick](#)

NEW GLASGOW – Fate may have played a big part in saving the life of three women who got caught in a rip tide at Melmerby Beach last month.

Professional divers Paul Budreski and his friend Tye Zinck were finishing up a day's work near the beach when they were asked to help three swimmers struggling in the waves on June 23.

"It just so happened that we were unloading our diving gear and a lady came running towards us asking us to help the girls that were deep in the surf and couldn't get to shore," said Budreski. "Tye grabbed his scuba fins and he went out to one of the girls. I went back to the truck and got a life ring and rope and headed towards the other girls."

Budreski, Zinck and Little Harbour Fire Chief Don Wadden worked together to get the girls to shore safely along with members of the department's rescue team. The swimmers survived the incident, although they suffered from exhaustion and hypothermia.

Budreski said the fact that his friend, Zinck, is a professional rescue diver who has worked around the world on such television shows as *Survivor*, helped make the situation go a little smoother.



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"He has done this all over the world and he just happened to be in Pictou County at that time," he said.

Budreski, Zinck and members of the Little Harbour Fire Department will be honoured today for their heroic efforts during the Gyro Chicken barbecue in Carmichael Park at noon.

The Canadian Red Cross will be presenting its Rescuer Awards to the men, who were nominated for the award by someone in the community.

"The incident could have turned tragic if not for the actions of these people," said Janice Babineau of the Canadian Red Cross. "The plaque presentation shows how important it is for these people to take action and honours the fact that they knew what to do in this situation."

Divers recover body of drowning victim in Silverdale

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/125794568.html>
Jul 18, 2011 By [KOMO Staff](#)

SILVERDALE, Wash. -- Divers have recovered the body of a man who drowned at Island Lake Park on Monday night.

The 20-year-old man, identified by the Kitsap County Medical Examiner as Kristopher Foisy, was swimming near the dock with a friend around 10:30 p.m., said Kitsap County sheriff's spokesman Scott Wilson.

Deputies say Foisy got tired and cold after swimming a distance and he and a friend decided to turn back. By the time the friend made it to shore, he could still hear Foisy out there, splashing around in distress.

The friend swam back out to help, but never saw the victim again.

Tuesday morning, when search and rescue divers signaled they had finally found the body, the Foisy's step-father watched from shore, needing to see for himself despite the pain. "He is really bright. Loving. It's just tragic," said Steve Taylor.

The two had just seen each other last week at a family funeral. "I gave him a hug and said 'I love you,' " Taylor said.



Neighbors who have lived on the lake say it can be a hazardous place to swim.

"I know there a lot of logs and grass out there," said Diane Almanza. "He might have got tangled up."

Members of Underwater SAR, a volunteer dive team, were dispatched to search for the remains.

WOSTER: 'Tough job' can rattle the toughest among us

http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/columnists/local/woster-tough-job-can-rattle-the-toughest-among-us/article_16b30b16-b4b0-11e0-b093-001cc4c03286.html

July 24, 2011

It's a surreal moment when a drowning victim is found.

It spreads sadness like a cold breeze, silencing the murmurs of speculation and catching in the lungs of those looking on.

Rescue diver Rod Seals was chest deep in Memorial Pond early Tuesday evening when he raised a hand to signal a horrid conclusion to the search for Myron Little Dog.

"They found him," I said to Journal photographer Kristina Barker, as we stood in a stone-faced gathering on the pond's grassy bank and she clicked photos.

Thirty yards away, beyond the yellow police tape, the woman who had been frantically pointing directions for divers in the water wailed as her fears were fulfilled. Little

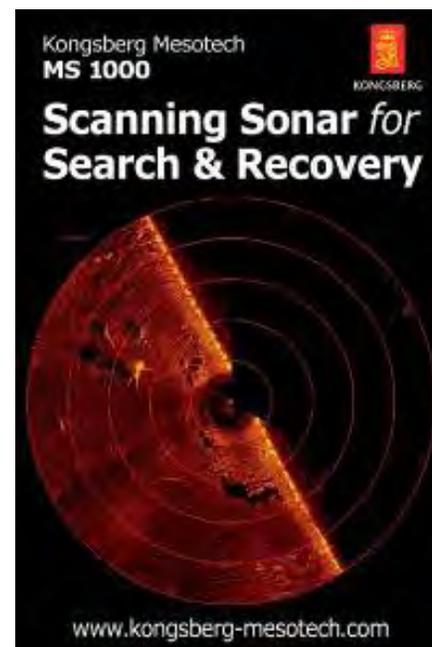
Dog, a 45-year-old Rapid City man, had drowned, although official confirmation would wait for the hospital, following earnest-if-futile resuscitation efforts by medical personnel along the way.

The pond just south of the civic center is named in memory of the 238 who died in and near Rapid City in the 1972 flood. And as tragedies go, the Tuesday night drowning certainly can't compare with that.

But it was tragic, nonetheless.

After a day of 100-degree heat, Little Dog was cooling off with friends during an ill-advised swim in the weed-choked, silt-laden pond. He magnified the dangers of that swim with alcohol consumption, a bad decision that doesn't make his passing any less sad.

Lesa Walter heard the emergency response on the police scanner in the Journal newsroom. Since I was the night reporter, I was soon at the lake, watching members of the city-county water rescue team in a methodical search for Little Dog in the area where he was last seen.



Seals is a member of that team. He is also the operations chief of the Rapid City Fire Department. He was still at the main fire station when the emergency call came in and was the first official rescuer to hit the water. Seals went in with a face mask and tank but without the diving suit and gloves and other types of protection divers wear, when there is time.

"We'll take some risks if we think there's an opportunity to save someone," says Dustin Willett, team leader for the City-County Water Rescue Team. "At that point, Rod was hoping their might be a chance of rescue, instead of recovery."

Wearing office clothes, Seals performed a "hasty search," which means what it says. He went to the point in the lake where the most credible witness or witnesses last saw Little Dog, and quickly searched that spot. He kept searching, based on the directions from the victim's companion as better equipped divers began a more methodical sweep, foot by foot in murky water, often reaching out to feel for the victim in near-zero visibility.

What a chore that is, feeling around in the

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muck for a human body, or moving fish-like through nearly opaque water waiting for a face or hand to appear inches from your protective mask.

Clearly, it's not for everyone. "It's a tough job," Willett says. "The most successful people are able to compartmentalize things well, to deal with those images that people really don't want in their heads."

Seals has a new image to pack away in his head. So do those who stood on the shoreline and saw him confirm, with an upraised hand, their awful expectations.

Likely remains of NC woman found in Texas

<http://www.statesman.com/news/texas/likely-remains-of-nc-woman-found-in-texas-1650222.html>

July 25, 2011 By RENEE ELDER The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Investigators said Monday that they have found what they believe are some of the remains of a dismembered North Carolina woman in a Texas creek, and that the father of her two young sons and his wife are charged in her killing.

Investigators found mostly parts of a torso believed to be that of Laura Ackerson, 27, of Kinston, floating in Oyster Creek southwest of Houston, said Chief Deputy Craig Brady of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department. They also found an ice chest, which is believed to have been used to transport the remains more than 1,000 miles

across several states, and a machete that may have been used to dismember her, Brady said.

"We still don't have a positive ID due to the condition of the body and the pieces we've recovered," Brady said at a news conference. "We don't have the hands, feet or head. Mostly the torso, which was cut in several pieces."

Charged with murder are 32-year-old Grant Ruffin Hayes and his wife, 39-year-old Amanda Perry Hayes.

Grant Hayes, a musician who used the stage name Grant Haze, fathered Ackerman's two sons, 3-year-old Grant Haze and 1-year-old Gentle Haze. He had been scheduled to appear in family court next month because he and Ackerson had been involved in a custody dispute since March 2010.

Ackerman was last seen on July 13 after dropping off the boys at Hayes' home in Raleigh. She was reported missing on July 18 after failing to pick up the boys. Her car was found July 20 at an apartment complex in the city. The arrest warrant for the Hayeses said Ackerson died in Wake County, N.C., on the day she dropped off the boys.

Police divers continued searching the bottom of the creek for other body parts, including the head, Brady said.



"They will look until they are satisfied they won't find her there," he said. "We don't know for a fact they are even in there."

Grant and Amanda Hayes were booked Monday into the Wake County Jail.

Investigators spoke with the suspect's sister and her family and found no indication that they knew of the

slaying, Brady said.

During the Aug. 15 hearing, a judge was to hear about psychological evaluations that had been ordered for the two boys, said Lenoir County Court Clerk Dawn Stroud.

Raleigh police spokesman Jim Sughrue said he didn't know where the children were staying.

Missing Shotgun In School Yard Suicide Found

<http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/126224598.html>

Jul 26, 2011 By David Klugh

LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY -- KIMA had the only cameras rolling when Investigators found the gun used in Monday's apparent suicide at McClure elementary.

Detectives were told by the three other young men with the victim Sunday night, that they threw the shotgun in Buena Pond.



17-year-old David Raymond was found shot in the head at the school early yesterday morning. But the investigation took a turn when the others told police Raymond shot himself.

Detective, Jim Feuhrer of the Yakima police department says finding the shotgun helps to back up that story.

"This was not an easy case. They did things that were incredibly suspicious. However, we believe that we've crossed our t's and dotted our i's in this case and things have developed in such a way that we believe that we have the right outcome for this."

Investigators say it will now be up to the prosecutor on whether the other three will be charged with tampering with evidence.

Police: Raleigh musician, wife kill a Kinston mother

http://www.news-record.com/content/2011/07/26/article/police_raleigh_musician_wife_kill_a_kinston_mother

July 26, 2011 By [News & Observer of Raleigh](#)

RALEIGH (MCT) — Police say a Raleigh musician and his wife killed a Kinston mother here, dismembered her body, packed the pieces in coolers and loaded them aboard a rented U-Haul trailer before dumping the remains in a creek 1,250 miles away outside Houston.

Grant Ruffin Hayes, 32, and Amanda Perry Hayes, 39, were arrested early Monday at a house at 1505 Holman St. in Kinston, brought to Raleigh and charged with murdering Laura Jean Ackerson, 27.

Ackerson was Grant Hayes' ex-girlfriend, and they had been embroiled in a bitter custody fight over their two young children, according to Lenoir County court records.

Relatives of Amanda Hayes in Richmond, Texas, told investigators that she and Grant Hayes had come to visit her sister after Ackerson was killed, said Craig Brady, chief deputy for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

While there, relatives said, the pair carried coolers they brought from Raleigh to Oyster Creek.

Investigators from Raleigh and Fort Bend County searched the creek Sunday afternoon and found parts of a torso they think is Ackerson's caught in the weeds growing in the creek, Brady said.

They then called in divers to look for the rest of the body. On Monday afternoon, divers found a leg and a head, which police expect will speed identification. Otherwise it would have required DNA testing.

Swamp on the way

It was puzzling, Brady said, that someone would kill, dismember the victim and drive more than 1,000 miles, past any number of secluded locations seemingly better suited for hiding a body, then dump it only 100 yards from the home of someone with whom they were so easy to link.

"So they drove through, what, five or six states and over a 40-mile-wide swamp in Louisiana, all so they can bring the body here?" he said. "Fortunately for police, criminals just aren't very smart."

Investigators confiscated several coolers and a



machete from the home of Hayes' sister that they think were used in the case, Brady said. The coolers and machete appeared to have been washed, he said, but if they were used in the killing, there was a high likelihood that useful traces of blood would remain.

The body, Brady said, appeared to have been dismembered at least partly with a saw.

No charges are expected against Amanda Hayes' relatives in Texas, he said.

Car found in Raleigh

According to arrest warrants for the Hayeses, investigators think Ackerson was killed in Wake County on July 13.

Kinston police said Ackerson dropped her two children off at Grant Hayes' home that day and that a business associate reported her missing two days later when she did not pick up the children. Her Ford Focus was discovered July 20 in Raleigh, parked near 5400 Summit Manor Lane.

Raleigh investigators went to Texas on Sunday after learning that Grant and Amanda Hayes had traveled there after Ackerson disappeared, Brady said. Once in Richmond, a suburb of Houston, they called the Fort Bend Sheriff's Office on Sunday afternoon to seek assistance and as a matter of protocol.

Sheriff's deputies accompanied Raleigh officers when they went to the house to question Hayes' relatives and then joined the Raleigh officers in the search at the creek that

turned up the first parts of the body, Brady said. Mainly, though, the Raleigh investigators took the lead.

Raleigh police remained tight-lipped about the details of the investigation Monday, but Brady gave them a gushing review.

"They were aggressive in pursuing this and did an outstanding job of developing information from the leads they got, and I think the case they're developing will lead to a successful conclusion to the case," he said. "I think there is going to be a good resolution to this case based on the quality of the forensic information from the items that were seized."

Musician, preacher's kid

Grant Hayes goes by the name Grant Haze. According to his Facebook site, he was originally from Tennessee and graduated from Kinston High School in 1997.

He's the son of a minister and has been recording music since he was 18, Hayes said in an August 2010 interview posted on YouTube. He said that he changed his name to Haze and used that name when marrying Amanda and when naming his children.

Authorities, however, continue to use Hayes. Hayes described himself as an acoustic soul singer. He has a small following on Myspace; his songs and interviews on YouTube typically had between 100 and 200 hits as of Monday morning.

On Wednesday, a week after Ackerson disappeared and the day her car was found, Hayes was scheduled to

perform at the Mellow Mushroom pizza restaurant in Raleigh, according to the restaurant's website. He and his wife were being held Monday night at Wake County jail without benefit of bail.

Looking for more

Divers are expected to return to Oyster Creek this morning looking for more remains. On Monday, divers from the Richmond Fire Department were joined by a dive team from the Houston Police Department, said Bob Haenel, a spokesman for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

It was slow, hot work Monday. With temperatures around 100, the water in the creek was searingly hot and dark brown with silt, Haenel said. The divers, clad in heat-trapping wetsuits, couldn't see underwater and had to rely on their hands and sonar devices.

Brady said they would continue looking until they felt reasonably sure there was little likelihood of finding more remains.

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The Bulgaria: An underwater city of the dead

http://rbth.ru/articles/2011/07/26/the_bulgaria_an_underwater_city_of_the_dead_13183.html

July 26, 2011 [Anna Rudnitskaya](#), Ruskiy Reporter

During a cruise on July 10, the Bulgaria riverboat sank in the Volga River, killing 129 of the 208 people on board. While the disaster is being investigated, the victims of this very Russian tragedy bid a final farewell to their loved ones.

A lot of commotion hangs over the court of the forensic medical examination office. Relatives identifying bodies,



The operation to raise the ship wreckage.
Source: RIA Novosti

receiving burial certificates and collecting what's needed for the funeral: a coffin, plaque and cross for the Orthodox Russians; a tablet, cerement for Muslims. Hearses take the deceased to their homes and then immediately to the cemetery.

A young, beautiful woman wearing a short lilac-colored dress appears, her posture ideally straight and her legs completely stiff. As two men help her along on both sides, she keeps her eyes set straight ahead. Fidgeting with a cross on a gold chain, she leans against the wall and suddenly lets out a quiet yet ghastly wail. The men accompanying her hold coat hangers with two identical tiny suits: little white shirts and vests that are put into black bags. "Nikita Sabirov" reads one "Daniel Sabirov" reads the other. The list of casualties shows that the boys were born in 2006.

A psychologist from the Emergencies Situations Ministry, who is also a neighbor of Olesya Vedernikova, sits on a nearby bench, holding a weeping man's hand. Vedernikova worked in the Bulgaria's kitchen. Her family asked the man to help them retrieve her body. This was Vedernikova's first voyage; she used to work at a factory making stuffed animals, but had not been paid on time and decided to earn some money during the summer. She and her friend Ruvina worked on the Bulgaria. Now Ruvina is waiting for Olesya's body near her apartment building. Ruvina was able to save herself. Olesya, however, was not as lucky: a pot of boiling water tipped over on her when the boat suddenly veered sharply to the right.

Lifting the bodies

Rescue divers from all over Russia were summoned to retrieve the dead bodies. While waiting their turn, they practice back at the main camp set up on the banks of the Volga. They don't have any idea how long they are under water: they say there is no sense of time there, rather they work off how much oxygen is left in their tank. Constantine retrieved eight bodies during his shift: . After the "Bulgaria" started sinking, no one had a chance to survive. "The passengers could have held out for no more than 10 minutes. Remember that the Bulgaria wasn't a submarine with any watertight cargo holds," Constantine said.

Yury Kuzminsky, the rescue divers' head doctor, says the divers' biggest problem is low visibility where the Bulgaria went down because of the muddy bottom, river current and recent storm. "The divers cannot see beyond a few feet, so they occasionally stumble upon human corpses," says Kuzminsky.

Heroic captain

Meanwhile, Sergei Lebedev, the boat's captain and one of the victims, is being buried in a nearby village. His entire family was on board: his wife Alyona worked as a cook, daughter Dasha was a waitress and son Sasha – an aspiring sailor. They were all were lucky enough to escape. The captain's wife and children appear tired rather than devastated with grief. This ordinary family,

living in regular house, held a gathering in their father's remembrance in a rural cafe opposite their home – just a regular rural funeral. Elderly women in the crowd are gossiping among themselves: "Did you hear that the captain didn't want to abandon ship. He locked up himself up in his cabin and went down with the ship?"

Nobody knows how the captain died. He had been doing his best to straighten out the lurch and save people on board as long as he could, yelling: "Everybody, get on the left side of the deck!" The radio operator wanted to transmit his order via the loud speakers, but the radio cabin had its electricity cut off. Twenty-three of the 35 crew members survived, while only 56 passengers out of 156 were saved.

Nikolai Dmitriev, who worked as the Bulgaria's disco organizer, took both of his sons with him on that fateful day. The elder son helped his father by singing and dancing at the disco, while the younger one just came along for the ride. Nikolai and his sons were sleeping after dinner in a room below deck and under a staircase when women's blood-curdling screams from the neighboring cabin woke them up. Rather drowsy, the Dmitrievs came out of their cabin. The vessel had already veered sharply to the right. The staircase leading up from the lower deck was full of people, and the Dmitrievs were the very last in line.

No sooner had they climbed to the top than



WHERE HEROES ARE MADE

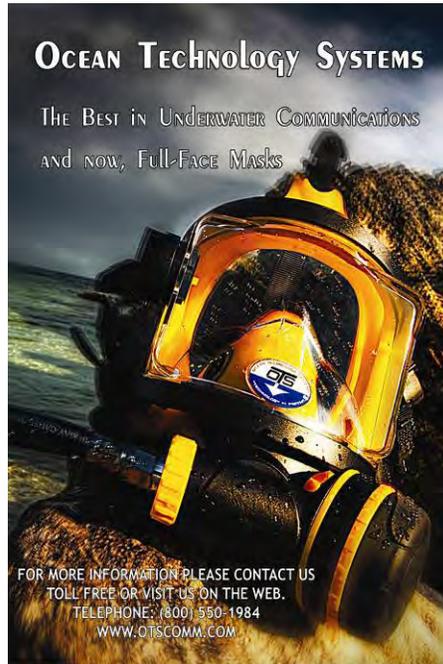
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a wave rolled over them like "A wall of water wall from the floor all the way up to the ceiling," Dmitriev recalls. He was thrown to the floor and when he opened his eyes, he saw a hatch above. A second later, a sailor opened the hatch and reached out his hand to help Dmitriev out. "That was Ivan. He's a good kid. He always went out on deck to listen to greetings for passengers. He loved songs too. If it wasn't for him, I'd have had no chance of surviving. The problem for him was that he didn't know how to swim."



Kazan

The Meteor riverboat sits anchored in the river port of Kazan. Ever since the Bulgaria accident, it sets sail almost void of passengers. Employees at the river port's tourist bureau seem distressed: "People are scared. Just a week ago there was a crowd here. Now, a lot of people are returning their tickets."

The Bulgaria's demise is a typically Russian tragedy: in just three minutes, in broad daylight and right in the middle of the Volga river, a riverboat leased by a

company not listed in the register of tourist operators, operated by an understaffed crew that had not been paid in quite a while, sank carrying a couple dozen unregistered passengers, including crew members' numerous relatives, and sailor Ivan, who loved songs, but did not know how to swim.

Divers find knife at Burlington murder scene

<http://www.wcax.com/story/15154270/divers-find-knife-at-burlington-murder-scene>
July 27, 2011 [WCAX News](#)

Burlington, Vermont - Police divers have found a knife that may have been used to kill a Burlington man.

Authorities say 54-year-old Ralph Bell was stabbed to death last week on a railroad bridge over the Winooski River. On Tuesday, dive teams found a knife in the river under the bridge.

According to the Burlington Free Press the knife will now be tested to see if it is the same



weapon used in the murder.

Daniel Whalon, 25, of Burlington, is being charged with second-degree murder for allegedly killing Bell, who was reportedly his lover. Whalon hasn't entered a plea since he's been court ordered to the Vermont State Hospital for an in-patient mental health evaluation.

Related Stories:

- [Mental exam ordered for Burlington murder suspect](#)
- [Burlington Police say they've caught a killer](#)
- [Police ID Burlington homicide victim](#)
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- [Burlington police call man's death suspicious](#)
- [Body discovered in Burlington's intervale](#)



Ralph Bell



Daniel Whalon

Families to receive artifacts after missing plane found

<http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/569580--families-to-receive-artifacts-after-missing-plane-found>

Jul 27 2011 * Joanne Shuttleworth *The Guelph Mercury

GUELPH — The Ontario Provincial Police have turned over the investigation of a missing aircraft in Lake Muskoka to the Department of National Defence.

It's a complicated investigation that has spanned 71 years and several government departments.

But it's unlikely the plane will be raised, National Defence spokesperson Laurel Clegg said. "It is a rare aircraft, but unless we need to bring it up for recovery purposes, it's unlikely we'll do that," she said in a phone interview.

The OPP confirmed that the Northrop A-17a Nomad it discovered at the bottom of Lake Muskoka last year is the plane flown by Leading Aircraftsman Ted Bates of Guelph and Flight Lt. Peter Campbell of Britain.

It was Dec. 12, 1940, when a plane on a training flight from the Royal Canadian Air Force base in Borden went missing over Lake Muskoka in a snow storm. Two planes were sent to search for the plane the next day, but the bad weather continued and hours later the planes collided and fell into the lake.

One plane was located a few months later, but the one flown by Bates and Campbell was never found.



OPP boat near the Leamington Marina in Leamington, Ont., June 6, 2011. Three bodies were recovered near a breakwall that their boat struck Sunday evening.

[Second World War plane found in Ont. lake](#)

OPP Insp. Ed Medved said the local group Lost Airmen of Muskoka Project (LAMP) did a lot of leg work over the years and determined a few target areas in the lake to search. "They brought it to us, and we began to investigate on a part-time basis," Medved said Monday. "We used it as training."

OPP divers located the plane last year, "but then the investigating officer was deployed to a homicide investigation. This was not a high priority as there was no sense of urgency after 70 years," Medved said.

Still, police divers confirmed the plane with photos and video. They also found uniforms and an engraved ring and cigarette case which confirmed the identities of Bates and Campbell.

Medved said the families were notified through official channels a few weeks ago. "It brings a tremendous amount of closure for the families, I would imagine," he said.

Clegg said the ring belonging to Bates and the cigarette case belonging to Campbell will be treated and then returned to the families. Items underwater for so long often disintegrate when retrieved, so the items will be properly conserved first.

Police officer drowns saving suicidal teen girl.

		<p>Deputy Gross had responded to the scene and entered the water which was swollen due to heavy snowmelt. The girl was pulled from the water by bystanders but Deputy Gross was swept away. His body was found four days later approximately 1/2 mile from where he entered the river. http://www.odmp.org/officer/20914-deputy-sheriff-bryan-p-gross</p>
<p>Deputy Sheriff Bryan P. Gross Converse County Sheriff's Office, Wyoming End of Watch: Thursday, July 28, 2011</p>		

Deputy Sheriff Bryan Gross drowned in the North Platte River while attempting to save a teenage girl who had jumped into the river after fighting with her boyfriend.

<http://yourjewishnews.com/9409.aspx>

August 01, 2011

A sheriff's deputy who jumped a river to try to save an apparently suicidal teenage girl was found dead yesterday.

Bryan P. Gross, of the Wyoming Converse County sheriff's office leapt into the North Platte River on Thursday to help the girl but was swept away by meltwater.

The 29-year-old's body was found about a mile and a half downstream after an extensive search.

Other emergency workers recovered the girl about a mile downstream on Thursday evening and took her to a hospital.

Steve Henning, Douglas city administrator, said the girl was 14-years-old and was in town for a 4-H fair. 'She was distraught with her boyfriend, and she jumped in the river,' Henning said.

Gross worked as a Douglas police officer for a few years before joining the sheriff's department recently.

Henning said Gross had worked at the police department as a drug officer, handling a trained dog. He added Gross had gotten married within the past month or so to a woman who worked as a receptionist for the city. Douglas Mayor Bruce Jones



said the situation is hitting his town hard.

'Anytime you go into the water like that, it's heroic,' Jones said. 'Of course to him, he's probably just doing his job.'



Deputy State Engineer Harry C. LaBonde said the river was running at 6,620 cubic feet per second Friday at a nearby gauging station, downstream from Douglas. He said the flow averaged only 2,110 cfs on the same date over the past 60 years.

'It's higher than you would expect this time of year based on the water we're having with all of the snow and the releases from all the federal reservoirs,' LaBonde said.

There have been several deaths in Wyoming this year associated with flooding and high water, including four members of a Colorado family killed earlier this month when a highway washed out in a heavy rainstorm.

President Barack Obama last week declared a major disaster in Wyoming because of spring and summer flooding. The declaration opened the way for the federal government to help the state pay for costs incurred from damaged roads, highways and other infrastructure.

Woodbridge unveils memorial for officer who drowned while trying to save two children

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/woodbridge_unveils_memorial_fo.html

August 03, 2011 By Tom Haydon / The Star-Ledger



Woodbridge PBA President and police Detective Dean Janowski speaking at dedication of memorial to Officer Alvin Williams, who died Sept. 6, 1979 while trying to rescue two children. Williams' widow, Sarah Williams, is standing next to the police cruiser in the dark top. (Tom Haydon/The Star-Ledger).

WOODBIDGE— Bruce Chester still remembers the emptiness he felt when his police radio went silent.

It was Sept. 6, 1979, and the Woodbridge officer was rushing to help Officer Alvin Williams, who was trying to grab two children from a river swollen by rains of Hurricane David.

But when Chester got near the scene and heard a dispatcher call for Williams, there was no response.

Today, nearly 32 years later, police unveiled a memorial to Williams, who was swept away and drowned trying to save the children, who also died in the South Branch of the Rahway River.

"I remember the eerie silence. He was gone. The haunting feeling never left me, even to this day," Chester said during the ceremony on St. Georges Avenue, in front of where a Home Depot now stands.

The location is less than 100 feet from the culvert into which Williams and the two children were pulled by a swift current. The children's bodies were found hours later, and Williams' body was found the next day nearly a mile downstream. "It was important to me that nobody ever forget. He gave his life to save others," Chester said.

Williams' widow, Sarah Williams, and the couple's children and other relatives attended the ceremony. "It really looks like him," Sarah Williams said of the etching of Williams on the memorial.

The ceremony brought out people who helped search for Williams and the children, including state Department of Human Service police Officer Stephen Sexton, a former

township officer, who recalled carrying Williams' body to an ambulance after it was recovered from the river.

Woodbridge previously dedicated a park to Williams in the Sewaren section.

The Woodbridge PBA Local 38 paid for the memorial, and for a separate memorial to Officer Joseph Lewis, who died on Sept. 18, 1932 in an accident while riding a police motorcycle on Route 9 just north of Route 35.

Williams and Lewis are the only two township officers to have died in the line of duty.

Alameda firefighters send boat to help rescue kite surfer: The man initially declined help after the lines of his kite became entangled

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/vehicles/articles/1101721-Alameda-firefighters-send-boat-to-help-rescue-kite-surfer/>

August 10, 2011 By Peter Hegarty -Contra Costa Times

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Alameda firefighters dispatched a rescue boat and swimmers to help a kite surfer who ran into trouble off Crown beach Monday afternoon, the first time crews have responded with a boat to a water-based emergency since Raymond Zack drowned on Memorial Day at the same beach.

The kite surfer, 54, who lives in Oakland, was about 300 yards from shore when the lines of his kite became entangled, leaving him and his board adrift.

"His kite was tied around his board," Alameda fire Division Chief Rick Zombeck said. "He couldn't free it and he was dead in the water. He was kite surfacing earlier and I think that by the time we reached him, he was just tired."

The man, who was wearing a wet-suit, initially declined help. But he later opted to have firefighters tow his board to shore. The surfer declined medical attention. He is believed to have been adrift about 20 minutes.

The incident marks the first occasion that firefighters have used the 14-foot inflatable boat since interim fire Chief Mike D'Orazi reinstated the programs after Zack committed suicide by drowning himself at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach. Rescue swimmers, however, have helped in several incidents in recent weeks.

Alameda firefighters came under stinging public criticism after it emerged that they remained on shore and watched as the 52-year-old Zack waded deeper and deeper into San Francisco Bay on Memorial Day, saying budget cuts and

Related Articles:

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[Responders 'right not to act' in Calif. bay drowning](#)

[Mutual aid agencies say they were never called in Alameda drowning](#)

department policy prevented a rescue attempt. A passer-by eventually pulled the unconscious Zack to shore.

Along with putting the \$13,000 rescue boat into service, the department has now trained 22 firefighters as rescue swimmers. Additional firefighters currently are being trained.

Two firefighters swam out to the kite surfer on Monday after a witness reported that he appeared in distress about 3:45 p.m. When the firefighters reached the surfer he was sitting on his board, which was floating off the 2200 block of Shoreline Drive.

The firefighters were dispatched from Fire Station 1 at Park Street and Encinal Avenue. Zombeck said firefighters had been training with the inflatable boat off the same beach about 90 minutes before they received the 911 call about the kite surfer.

"They had been practicing launching a beach rescue," he said. "They were back in quarters but they were quickly able to deploy the boat. The other good news is that we also had rescue swimmers available."



Remember This?

Gabe Watson, scuba killer in Australia faces death penalty in the U.S.

<http://www.whatsonxiamen.com/news7435.html>

20 Sep 2009



Honeymoon killer Gabe Watson could face the death penalty when he is released from an Australian jail and returns to the US.

Alabama Attorney General Troy King yesterday announced he would go after Watson for a capital murder, the worst category of murder in the state.

If he is convicted, Watson faces death by lethal injection or life without parole.

The 32-year-old bubble-wrap salesman has admitted to killing his new wife Tina Watson who drowned as they explored the Great Barrier Reef on their October 2003 honeymoon.

In June, he cut a deal with Queensland prosecutors and pleaded guilty to manslaughter. He was sentenced to 4 1/2 years' jail, to be suspended after a year, in a decision that devastated Tina's family and provoked public outcry over its leniency.

Queensland Attorney General Cameron Dick appealed the sentence and the Court of Appeal on Friday ruled Watson should spend another six months in jail, which means he will be back in Alabama in December 2010.

Mr King said he was "deeply disappointed" by the outcome. "Tina Thomas Watson and her family have been deprived by the Australian court system of the justice they deserved," Mr King said.

Mr King had been considering hitting Watson with a murder conspiracy charge, but yesterday declared he would go for the more serious offence.

During a meeting yesterday, he ordered a team of prosecutors and investigators to compile a brief of evidence that will be presented to a grand jury for a capital murder indictment.

The presentation could happen within months. If the 16-person panel agrees there is enough evidence to support a

conviction in Alabama, he will be tried for murder. If convicted, a judge would decide whether to give him life in jail or condemn him to death.

Mr King said he hoped to give the family "what they could not get in Australia - justice". But legal experts have expressed doubts that Watson could be retried due to double jeopardy rules.

Mr King would not say what piece of law allowed him to indict Watson in the US after his plea in Australia. Tina's sister Alanda Thomas hoped he would stand trial.

"My sister, Tina, had her entire life taken from her by his actions and all he gets is 18 months in jail," she said. "That is just a disgrace. Hopefully my sister will get her day in court and Gabe will finally stand trial for all he has done."



UPDATE:

Date set for Gabe Watson murder trial

<http://www.shelbycountyreporter.com/2011/07/14/date-set-for-gabe-watson-murder-trial/>

July 14, 2011 **By BRAD GASKINS / Staff Writer**

A trial date has been set for a Hoover man accused of killing his wife during a scuba diving trip in Australia.

The trial will start Feb. 13, 2012, according to the Alabama Attorney General's Office.

Gabe Watson pleaded not guilty Jan. 31, 2011 to charges of murdering his wife during an Australian honeymoon in 2003.

Prosecutors contend Watson murdered wife Christina "Tina" Thomas on Oct. 22, 2003, just 11 days after their wedding, while the couple was on a scuba diving expedition on the Great Barrier Reef.

Thomas was a Helena native.

Watson was charged with murder in Australia but pleaded guilty to manslaughter. While in court, Watson, a certified rescue diver, admitted he failed to fulfill his responsibilities as his wife's dive buddy during the dive. Watson was indicted Oct. 22, 2010 by a Jefferson County grand jury on charges of capital murder in the course of

kidnapping and capital murder in the course of pecuniary gain.

After release from the Australian prison, Watson flew to Los Angeles, where he was arrested. Watson waived his extradition rights in a Nov. 30, 2010 hearing in Los Angeles.

FOUND ON THE WEB

World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011

Good swimmers drown more often than non-swimmers: How open water swimming could feature in beginner swimming

http://www.worldconferenceondrowningprevention.org/SiteMedia/w3svc1092/Uploads/Documents/WCDP2011_Swim&WS_Hindmarch_p222_Abstract.pdf

Torill Hindmarch and Mats Melbye Norwegian Life Saving Society

If we look at drowning statistics and relate them to the population we discover that Norway has a high incidence of drowning, twice that of the USA and four times as many as in Britain and Holland (ILS World Drowning Report for 2003).

It is commonly said, "The best insurance against drowning is learning to swim". But the figures tell us something else. While approximately two-thirds of those

who drowned were considered 'good swimmers' (2), almost all drowning accidents take place closer than 15 meters from possible rescue and more 50% closer than three meters from possible rescue. Why couldn't they swim to safety?

One might assume that good swimmers to a greater degree engage in water related activities, equally, the figures say nothing about how many survive due to good aquatic skills. Figures from a Survey made by Norwegian Swimming Federation indicate that only a half of the Norwegian population can be classed as 'competent' swimmers.

Combining these figures one can conclude that learning to swim in fact doubles the risk of drowning.

Research shows that certain age groups and genders have a higher incidence of drowning. It also shows that although it is no significant difference between the self estimated aquatic skills and the real aquatic skills, in the exposed group there was a low estimation of the risk in specific situations (3).

In Norway, swimming education mainly takes place at indoor pools with a balanced air and water temperature (water temperature is 28°C). Contrast this with outdoor conditions where open water temperatures in Norway are between 0–15 degrees, rising in the summer but seldom

above 20°C. Wind and waves add another dimension to swimming and survival skills, necessitating the need for a Personal Floating Device (PFD). Seldom do school swimming lessons include anything about environmental parameters or human limitations associated to swimming in open water. A common supposition is 'You don't need a PFD when you can swim'.

Looking at research about immersion, swimming and survival in cold water they all point to the human physiological limitations in cold water and underline the importance of wearing a PDF (4) (1), (5). Therefore, assessment of environmental challenges and taking appropriate measures should be a part of beginner swimming education.



The Norwegian Life Saving Society can, through its many courses in baby and toddler courses, impact a large number of families to see swimming from a drowning preventative perspective. Many of these children progress into our lifesaving clubs where we wish to create an awareness of water safety including environmental factors and human limitations. Will experience and mastery of the outdoor challenges from an early age help to develop the ability to judge risk potential more accurately?

This will be an interesting line of enquiry.

In addition, the NLS is engaging in a project funded by the government to introduce outdoor swimming education in schools. The experiences from a project started two years ago with 55 primary school children, participating in open water swimming lessons, form the basis for this undertaking. The project revealed that these children were learning much more than normal swimming education.

This presentation looks at the learning process that occurred in the pilot project and how we plan to educate the families in all levels of our education program to focus on water safety. We hope this will provide grounds for discussion at the conference and some may find they can develop these ideas further in their own country.

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Corresponding Author

Torill Hindmarch , Member of the Education Committee
Norwegian Life Saving Society
C/- Glemme, Vestby Akershus Norway 1540
Email: super.torill@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.livredning.no
Telephone: +47 41921305

FOUND ON THE WEB

Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Sanitary Water Quality

<http://mi.water.usgs.gov/h2oqual/BactHOWeb.html>

A Little Information About Microorganisms

Microorganisms are found everywhere in our environment. They are common in the air, soil, water and in the habitats of our daily lives. The vast majority of microorganisms do not cause disease. Instead, they maintain the fertility of soil, they degrade wastes in our landfills and compost piles, and they cleanse water of the pollutants we add. We purposefully use some microorganisms to make food (cheese, beer, sauerkraut), we put microorganisms to work in sewage treatment plants, and we use them in biotechnology to produce chemicals.

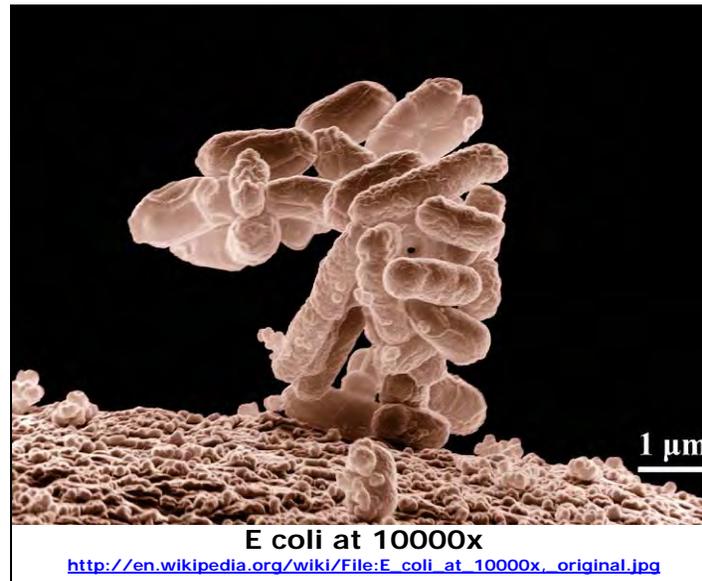
Naturally some microorganisms have learned to live on or in the human body. Many of these microorganisms do no harm, and are even beneficial because they compete with other microorganisms that might cause disease if they could become established in or on our bodies. The fecal indicator bacteria are such microorganisms; they are normal inhabitants of the gastrointestinal tract of humans and many other warm-blooded animals and in general, they cause no harm.

A few microorganisms (called pathogens) can cause disease in humans. In order to cause disease, a pathogen must successfully invade some part of the body and either produce more of itself or produce a chemical (usually called a toxin) which interferes with normal body

processes. Whether or not a pathogen is successful in causing disease is related to the health of the individual and the state of his or her immune system, as well as to the number of pathogen cells required to make the person ill. Some pathogens can cause disease when only a few cells are present. In other cases, many cells are required to make a person ill. Children and elderly persons are more susceptible to many pathogens than are young or middle-aged adults.

Some pathogens live out their lives in the soil and water and only cause disease under unusual circumstances. The microorganism that causes tetanus is an example. This microorganism (a bacterium named *Clostridium tetani*) lives normally in the soil. *Clostridium tetani* grows in the body only in

deep puncture wounds where air cannot penetrate (termed anaerobic). In this environment it produces a toxin which spreads throughout the body and may cause paralysis. Other pathogens are more closely associated with humans and other warm-blooded animals. These pathogens are transmitted from one organism to another by direct contact, or by contamination of food or water. Many of the pathogens which cause gastrointestinal disease are in this category. Several human gastrointestinal pathogens produce toxins which act on the small intestine, causing secretion of fluid which



results in diarrhea. In severe cases, such as cholera, the afflicted person may die from loss of body fluids and severe dehydration. Cells of the pathogen are shed in the feces, and if these cells contaminate food or water which is then consumed by another person, the disease spreads.

It is not unusual to find some fecal indicator bacteria and even some pathogens in natural environments. The organism called *Giardia lamblia* (a protozoan) is an example. This organism is found in the gastrointestinal system of some wild mammals, and may enter water through the feces of these mammals. The organism causes severe diarrhea in humans. Persons who backpack or hike in wilderness areas are advised to treat all water before drinking, even if it comes from a pristine, clear, cold mountain stream. Therefore, the risk of disease is not uniquely a result of the presence of human wastes in the environment.

Nevertheless, in natural environments, organisms are relatively dispersed; therefore wastes are also relatively dispersed. In addition, natural wastes are composed of compounds natural to that environment and microorganisms in the soil and water can degrade those wastes and recycle them into usable forms. When the quantity or type of waste exceeds the capacity of the microorganisms in soil and water to degrade it, we call the waste pollution. The degradation capacity of microorganisms in soil and water is challenged by extreme amounts of wastes, as well as by unusual (often man-made) or toxic compounds. It is difficult to live in an industrialized and urbanized world and not produce

localized concentrations of wastes. When human fecal wastes are concentrated in the environment, we assume, for our own protection, that the risk of transmission of pathogens may increase, even though we may have no direct evidence of the presence of a specific pathogen. It is for this reason that we monitor the quality of our food and water, and establish personal hygiene and public policies that attempt to prevent contamination in the first place.

Answers to Some Common Questions About Bacteria and Water Quality.

How do we monitor the sanitary quality of water?

The fecal indicator bacteria are used to measure the sanitary quality of water for recreational, industrial, agricultural and water supply purposes. The fecal indicator bacteria, as noted above, are natural inhabitants of the gastrointestinal tracts of humans and other warm-blooded animals. These bacteria in general cause no harm. They are released into the environment with feces, and are then exposed to a variety of environmental conditions that eventually cause their death. In general, it is believed that the fecal indicator cannot grow in natural environments, since they are adapted to live in the gastrointestinal tract. Sunlight, temperature, competition with bacteria found naturally in the water, predation by protozoa and other small organisms, and toxic industrial wastes are all believed to influence the survival of fecal indicator bacteria in the water. In addition, some wastes are specifically treated to inhibit the survival of fecal bacteria and pathogens. Studies have shown that fecal indicator bacteria survive from a few hours up to several

days in water, but may survive for days or months in sediments, where they may be protected from sunlight and predators. The survival time of fecal indicator bacteria in water is a function of many environmental influences and there is no number that applies to all water bodies, or even to all times of the year for a single body of water. We assume that pathogens die at the same rate as fecal indicator bacteria. Therefore, if we find relatively high numbers of fecal indicator bacteria in the environment, we assume that there is an increased likelihood of pathogens being present as well.

How is the fecal indicator test performed?

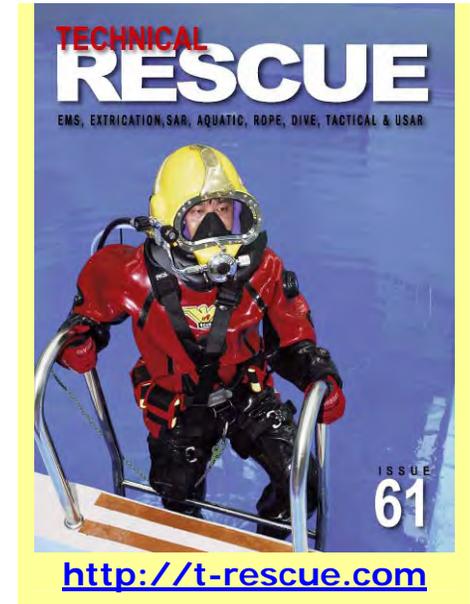
The fecal indicator bacteria are cultivated in the laboratory under conditions which encourage their growth, prohibit the growth of non-fecal indicator bacteria, and sometimes, provide special indications of their identity. With current tests, a specific amount of water is passed through a filter, which is then placed on a dish which contains the growth medium hardened into a gel. The test dish (called a Petri dish or Petri plate) is incubated for a specified amount of time at a specified temperature. At the end of the test, each single cell of a fecal indicator bacterium present in the original water will have reproduced sufficiently to produce a visible "colony" of bacteria. To improve the accuracy of the test results, dyes or special compounds may be included in the test growth medium which will result in the fecal indicator bacteria being a different color than any non-fecal indicator bacteria which might grow under the same conditions. Several different tests may be conducted for total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli* for short), as well as fecal streptococci and

enterococci. The total coliform bacteria are defined as "all organisms that produce colonies with a golden-green metallic sheen within 24 ± 2 hours when incubated at 35.0 ± 0.5 °C" on a specified growth medium. Fecal coliforms are a subgroup of total coliforms, and *Escherichia coli* is a particular genus and species of fecal coliform. The enterococci are a subgroup of the fecal streptococci. Slightly different interpretations of

water quality may occur based on the test performed. For example, the fecal streptococci are believed to survive longer in water than some coliform bacteria, and may be more associated with animal wastes than with human wastes.

How were recreational water quality standards for fecal indicator bacteria established?

Current guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) result from studies conducted at marine and freshwater beaches in the late 1970's and early 1980's. In 1986, the USEPA recommended that *E. coli* be used as an indicator of fecal contamination in recreational waters. The standard was set at a geometric mean concentration of 126 colonies per 100 milliliters



(mL) of water, which was estimated to be correlated with a gastrointestinal illness rate of about 8 individuals per 1,000 swimmers. How was this determined? Swimmers and non-swimmers were interviewed at freshwater bathing beaches on Lake Erie in Pennsylvania and on Keystone Lake near Tulsa, Oklahoma. Swimming was strictly defined as activity which resulted in all upper body openings being exposed to the water. The beaches had different levels of fecal indicator bacteria. After 8 to 10 days, the swimmers and non-swimmers were interviewed again with regard to symptoms of gastrointestinal or respiratory illness. The prevalence of gastrointestinal or respiratory illness was then compared to the concentrations of *E. coli*, enterococci and fecal coliforms on the day of swimming, as well as between swimmers and non-swimmers. The conclusion of this study was that *E. coli* and enterococci showed the strongest relationship with swimming-associated gastrointestinal illness, but fecal coliform densities showed little or no relation to gastrointestinal illness in swimmers. This study serves as a reminder that it is not a simple task to arrive at recreational water quality standards. No single test is infallible or correct for every situation. Individuals use recreational waters in different ways, and are not equally susceptible to disease due to their different behaviors and their prior health conditions. Not every swimmer in these studies suffered gastrointestinal illness.

Why don't we test for the pathogens themselves?

There are many kinds of pathogens that might be transmitted in water. These include bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Each type of bacterium, virus or protozoan requires a different test. Many of these tests are expensive

because they require special materials or equipment or are time-consuming. It is impractical to monitor water quality for every pathogen on a routine basis.

What factors lead to high fecal indicator bacteria numbers in recreational waters?

The sources of fecal indicator bacteria include waste waters from sewage treatment plants; other types of sewage inputs such as combined sewer outfalls and drainage from septic tanks; runoff from agricultural fields or feedlots; effluents from food processing plants (especially meats and beverages); and stormwater runoff (which carries animal and bird droppings). The likelihood that fecal indicator bacteria added to the environment by these means will survive to be counted at a given water quality monitoring site is a function of the distance of the site from such sources, and also a function of the effect of all the environmental factors that influence bacterial survival.

An early study (Burm, R.J. and R.D. Vaughan, 1966, *Journal of the Water Pollution Control Federation*, Vol. 38, pp. 400-409) compared the bacteriological quality of the separate stormwater distribution of the city of Ann Arbor, MI with that of the combined sewer system (specifically Conner Creek drain) of Detroit. Samples were taken over several months. In April, fecal coliform counts were 10,000 per 100 mL in the separate system (Ann Arbor) but 890,000 per 100 mL for the Detroit combined system. By comparison, in August, counts were 350,000 fecal coliforms per 100 mL at the Ann Arbor site, and 4,400,000 per 100 mL at the Detroit site. Fecal streptococci numbers were more similar between the two sites.

The U. S. Geological Survey has conducted several recent studies of fecal indicator bacteria in recreational waters in Ohio, in cooperation with a variety of Ohio State agencies including the City of Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage, the City of Akron Public Utilities Bureau, the Summit County Department of Environmental Services, the Ohio Water Development Authority, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization. These studies have provided data on fecal indicator bacteria concentrations in selected rivers with respect to concentration, relationship to recreational water-quality standards, and influence of environmental factors such as rainfall, runoff, and wastewater chlorination and dechlorination practices.

These studies have determined that fecal indicator concentrations may be highly variable along urban rivers (for example, fecal coliform counts ranged from 20 colonies per 100 mL to 2,000,000 colonies per 100 mL for different sites and sampling dates on the Scioto River in Columbus Ohio), and may exceed recreational water quality criteria even in the absence of significant rainfall. In Ohio rivers, fecal coliform densities and densities of E. coli were highly correlated. Current studies involve the suspension of test bacteria in enclosed but permeable chambers at various sites to determine the influence of treatment practices and environmental factors on their survival. These studies should provide more information on why fecal indicator counts are so variable, and what factors influence this variability.

The U. S. Geological Survey has also collected and published water quality data for the Clinton River at Mt. Clemens since 1975. Both fecal coliform and fecal streptococci numbers were determined on a monthly or quarterly basis, along with data on the chemical quality of the water. As with the Ohio studies, densities varied greatly from one sampling time to another. These data are currently being analyzed to determine if any water chemistry variables may help to explain the bacterial densities.

What are the standards for drinking water?

The USEPA issued revised Primary Drinking Water Standards in mid-1994. These standards address the source water quality, and vary somewhat with the treatment technique used for preparation of the drinking water from the source water. The Primary Standards suggest a presence/absence test for total coliforms. If this test is used, and the sampling agency tests more than 40 samples, no more than 5% of those samples may test positive for total coliforms. If fewer than 40 samples are used, no more than 1 sample may test positive. In addition, maximum contaminant levels, which vary with treatment technique, are specified for *Giardia lamblia*, *Legionella* (the bacterium which causes Legionnaire's disease) and viruses. The USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline provides more information. That number is 1-800-426- 4791.

USGS Contact: Sheridan Haack- Project Coordinator

US Geological Survey * 6520 Mercantile Way, Suite 5
Lansing, MI, 48911 * Phone: 517-887-8909
E-Mail: SKHAACK@USGS.GOV

Letters To The Editor

For immediate release:



**Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd's
New Digital Sea Scan HDS Side
Scan Sonar Used by FBI to Find
Drug Semi-Submersible that held
\$180M worth of cocaine.**

The operation made National News when a sunken semi-submersible was found using the Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd Sea Scan HDS system. This system is designed for ease of use from any vessel and with its High Definition Sonar images finding and identifying targets is more conclusive. There was no question of what the FBI operators were looking at when the semi-submersible appeared on the display because of the image quality Marine Sonic has become known to produce. For this search a 600/1200kHz dual frequency tow fish was used but higher frequency systems are available from Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd for more detail and finding smaller targets.

Thank you goes out from Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd to our USCG and FBI for their service and success in this operation. Bravo Zulu

**If you want to share a thought or comment,
send an email to PSDiverMonthly@aol.com.
Subject Line – Letter To The Editor**

	<h2>Diving Medicine Online</h2> <p><u>Ernest Campbell, MD, FACS</u></p> <p>Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non- medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist</p>
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Diving in Polluted Waters

<http://www.scuba-doc.com/tenfootstop/?p=96>

The Problem

Over the past ten to fifteen years the diving population has become sensitized to the potentially hazardous presence of pollution in the sea. The ocean has been a traditional dumping ground for many types and degrees of pollutants. Several years ago a Los Angeles Times article indicated that 2000 U.S. beaches were closed due to sewage spills.(1993). California, as usual a leader, had 745 closures with 588 occurring in Southern California. Consistent and regular monitoring would have probably found many more contaminated beaches needing closure. There is a definite lack of any standardized program for monitoring our waterways; particular areas of concern are harbors and similar areas which do not "flush" well, rivers, especially those with high levels of industry on the shores, sewage outfalls which go out to sea but are often overloaded and areas which have the deposits of soft,

silty materials dropped as the currents reduce their velocities in dispersal areas. It has been estimated that there are on the order of 15,000 chemical spills that enter our water areas each year in the U.S. alone. The contaminated areas are growing and now include many recreational diving areas as well as scientific study sites and search and rescue operations.

The health consequences of the water pollution have not been quantified by careful study but many local health professionals are concerned with infectious and carcinogenic disease potential for patients who are ocean swimmers, lifeguards and divers. Until adequate epidemiologic data is available the recourse would appear to be logically focused upon conservative practices in selecting dive sites and conditions.

This increase in areas of pollution is a worldwide problem and has affected many diving operations. Diving in polluted water requires that certain precautions be taken, and, in some instances, the use of sophisticated equipment and procedures. Avoiding diving in areas with high potential for pollution, particularly after heavy rains is fundamental in urban or industrialized areas.

The main problem centers on the fact that bacterial, viral and chemical hazards can affect the human body by skin contact and entry through orifices. The following list was produced in the NOAA Manual and the details were obtained from the medical literature.

Vibrio – 34 species of this family of bacteria are known and cholera and El Tor vibriones are among those known to be pathogenic to man. Cholera vibriones have recently

been found in Santa Monica Bay in California and have raised concerns although it is not known to have produced any disease. Other vibriones may be anaerobic and produce disease states such as purulent otitis, mastoiditis, and pulmonary gangrene. *V. Proteus* found in human fecal material is a common cause of diarrheal disease. *V. Vulnificus* is found in sea water.

Enterobacteria

Escherichia – found widely in nature, occasionally pathogenic to man, produces carotenoid pigments and can often be recognized by the orangish pus. *E. Coli*, which has some pathogenic strains is often found in fecal material: and can produce urinary tract infection and epidemic diarrheal disease.

Shigella – produces dysentery

Salmonella – 1000 serotypes, ingestion can produce gastroenteritis including food poisoning, typhoid and paratyphoid.

Klebsiella – can produce pneumonia, rhinitis, respiratory infection.

Legionella - causes Legionnaires disease and Potomac fever. Perhaps inhibited in salt water.

Actinomyces – causes a “ray fungus” actinomycosis, an infectious disease in man which inflames lymph nodes, develops abscesses, can drain into the mouth causing damage to the peritoneum, liver and lungs.

Pseudomonas - pathogenic to man, “blue pus” formed by some pseudomonas infections. This can lead to a wide

variety of infections including wound sepsis, endocarditis, pneumonia and meningitis. It is known to flourish in dark, warm, damp places, i.e., inside hoses, bladder compartments and similar places that are not cleansed after being infiltrated by contaminants.

Viruses – infectious agents which can result in fevers (frequently severe), mononucleosis, and a wide range of disease states.

Parasites – many types with all manner of effects, all bad, can be found in polluted water.

Chemicals - There are over 15,000 chemical spills in the U.S. waterways each year and many of these are releasing chemicals that are incompatible with man and the equipment that is worn.

Prevention

As detailed information becomes available on this issue divers will become sensitized to the need for preventive measures before, during and after diving. At present the scientific and public safety diving communities are developing techniques for isolating the diver from the potential problems and decontaminating all exposed elements of the diving equipment. It appears eminent that the recreational community will feel the need to exert greater care in the future.

It is becoming increasingly important to develop an understanding of the variations in the local conditions to which individuals expose themselves. Some areas become particularly hazardous following heavy rains, hot

weather and windstorms. Local health authorities can usually be called for advice regarding any tests that have been performed and the results. They should also be able to identify areas of high concentrations of pollutants that should be avoided.

When diving in areas where pollution is suspected or expected the following issues are worthy of evaluation:

- 1) The individual diver should consider the need for appropriate vaccinations and inoculations. Many of the diseases can be avoided if the individual has taken the appropriate “shots”. A few that appear worthy of consideration:
 - Hepatitis A and B
 - Cholera
 - Polio
 - Tetanus
 - Typhoid, Smallpox and Diphtheria
- 2) Pollution and filth are often associated. If the water contains obvious trash and garbage it is quite probably an unhealthful diving environment and another location should be selected. If the water looks nasty it probably is nasty!!
- 3) Many diseases have an incubation period before they exhibit symptoms. Medical advice is as close as the phone and early diagnosis and treatment can sometimes be improved if the Doctor understands that an individual may have been submerged in polluted water.

4) Information on chemical spills can be obtained from the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (1 800 424 9300 US).

5) "When in doubt- Check about"

A basic procedure if one feels they must dive in high risk water involves reducing the exposure of the diver. NOAA has pioneered a sophisticated SOS (suit over suit) system that will virtually isolate the diver from any contact with the water. This system is somewhat complex inasmuch as it requires complete system integrity from the times the diver dresses out until the system has been decontaminated following the dive. Strict procedures are followed to ensure that the diver's body does not contact the fluid in which it is immersed.

Previously, many public safety divers wore a single dry suit and a full face mask during their dives. However, Stephen Barsky now states that "Full-face masks only provide minimal protection and should only be used in environments where the pollutants are known, and do not pose a threat of death or permanent disability. In environments where the pollutants are not known, or where they lead to death or permanent disability, a helmet should be worn connected to a mating dry suit with mating dry gloves. This is considered the standard today." (See Reference below)

If good seals are involved and the diver is effectively rinsed, scrubbed down and rinsed again prior to breaking any existing seals, the probability of exposure to the pollutants can be minimized. Special care must be taken to clear hoses and fittings that interface with the life support system. A failure to rinse bladders and hoses which may later be linked to the divers mouth or lungs could provide a path to the host days after the dive. The use of snorkels, alternate air sources, oral inflation devices and hose connections should all be given careful attention since the can carry contaminants directly into the mouth. Positive pressure, "self bailing" breathing systems have definite advantages in that they resist flooding.

Recreational divers maybe well advised to place their regulator in their mouth and their mask over their nose before entering suspect water and keeping it there until they have safely exited the water where they can remove the regulator without needing to replace it.

Polluted water is a fact of our lives. The degree of pollution can only be

mitigated through education and the "upstream" elimination of the sources of the contaminants. The attitude that careful rinsing of diving gear is a waste of time "cuz its just going to get wet again next time it is used" should probably be replaced with the attitude that one should begin every dive with clean gear.

Related Links and References:
Utah Bureau of Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/els/chemistry/ Adapted from Glen Egstrom, Ph.D Medical Seminars, Inc. 1992
Colwell, et.al. Microbial Hazards Of Diving In Polluted Waters, Maryland Sea Grant Publication UM-SG-TS-82-01.
Diving in High-Risk Environments, 3rd Edition by Steven M. Barsky Amazon.com Paperback – 197 pages 3rd edition (December 15, 1999) Hammerhead Press; ISBN: 0967430518



Surface and Dive Operations in Contaminated Water

For the past several months planning has been underway to present a symposium in the fall of 2011 on the topic of surface and sub-surface operations by rescue and enforcement personnel in the contaminated water and ice environment. This is a joint presentation by the Ottawa Fire Service, the Ottawa Police Service and the Ottawa Paramedic Service. The Organizing Committee is grateful for the very generous support of our corporate sponsors, as well as the invaluable support offered by the OPPFA and OFS Special Operations.

The Symposium is being held October 13th and 14th at the Holiday Inn and Suites Kanata (Ottawa, ON, Canada). Registrations are being accepted online at www.ncsos2011.ca. Seating is limited so you are encouraged to respond early to reserve your space. Please visit the website for more information. A very dynamic and informative selection of presenters will be on hand to discuss all aspects of contaminated water operations.

Mr. Steve Barsky, an internationally recognized contaminated water dive expert, brings with him over 25

years of experience. Steve will present attendees with new and innovative approaches to dealing with contaminated diving and surface operations and be available to discuss equipment maintenance and repair issues. Mr. Bob McKee, Chief of Texas Task Force 1, will discuss the role of first responders to large scale events, with particular emphasis on exposure to contaminated waters in flood and moving water environments. Specific equipment and tactical considerations for the first responder as well as training, safety and logistical issues will be covered.

This symposium will provide a unique opportunity to share this information with our partners as we learn additional material from these nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts. In addition to these well known experts, special guests will discuss a wide range of related topics such as infectious diseases, technical decontamination requirements, contaminated water sampling, specialized equipment, deployment considerations, spills and boom deployment, small vessel compliance and operating issues, communication (unified command) issues and training and safety related concerns.

A significant body of work has been assimilated from many sources including FDNY, EPA, NOAA, US Navy, US Coast Guard, the Canadian Coast Guard and DND. Additionally, the NFPA has developed NFPA 1952, Standard on Surface Water Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment, which outlines the surface rescuers complete ensemble to mitigate the effects of exposure while conducting operations.

Come join us in October for an interesting and informative opportunity to learn more and discuss these issues with fellow firefighters from across the country. Seating is limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

OTTAWA - ONTARIO - CANADA • OCTOBER 13/14 2011

www.NCSOS2011.ca



DUI RISK MANAGEMENT 2011 TRAINING PROGRAM

Aug 19 Tacoma, WA Les Davis Park
Sept 16 Ottawa, OH Gilboa Quarry
Oct 21 Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings

Nov 11 Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
Nov 18 Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

TEST DIVE THE WHITES FUSION DRYSUIT

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Sept 10th Gloucester, MA Stage
Fort Park
Sept 17th-18th Prince William County, VA Millbrook
Quarry



[AUVSI *](#)

August 16th - 19th
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September 6th - 8th
Aberdeen, UK

[SEG International Exposition and 81st Annual Meeting](#)

September 18th - 23rd
San Antonio, TX, USA

[Oceans'11 MTS/IEEE Kona *](#)

September 19th - 22nd
Kona, Hawaii, USA

Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

October 31- November 1, 2011

<http://www.techno-forensics.com/>

[6th Annual Homeland Security Professional Conference & Expo](#) - October 3-7, 2011 - Las Vegas, NV

[Global Security Workshop](#) - November 11-19, 2011 - Tel Aviv, Israel

[SWAT Counter Terrorism Operations](#) - November 15-18, 2011 - Yakima, WA

PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education

PSDM-CE-86

- 1) Contaminated water only contains bacteria.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2) Divers should consider vaccinations yearly in prevention of diseases associated with contaminated water.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3) Post dive decon along with _____ will help in prevention of contamination exposure contact.
 - a. 10 minutes of 100% oxygen
 - b. Hot water bath in sodium salts
 - c. O-ring seal maintenance
 - d. Drinking hi-protein fluids
- 4) Most diving fatalities and, to a considerable extent, public drownings are preventable.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 5) Decontamination procedures are accomplished by only a wash down.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 6) There were over _____ chemical spills in US waterways this last year.
 - a. 5000
 - b. 10000
 - c. 15000
 - d. 25000
- 7) Water containing Klebsiella could produce _____ if contracted in water..
 - a. The bends
 - b. Respiratory infection
 - c. Heart attacks
 - d. Headaches
- 8) Every person involved in water contact must wear _____ as a minimum.
 - a. Shoes and socks
 - b. Dry Suits
 - c. Swim fins
 - d. PFD (coast Guard Approved)
- 9) The recommended procedure for rescuing a surface victim is
 - a. Reach, Throw Go

- b. Throw a rescue float
- c. Reach Throw Row Go
- d. Swim to them with a PFD

- 10) When deconning or field cleaning a mask used in contaminated diving it is advised to wear _____.
- a. Rubber Gloves
 - b. 2 pair of rubber gloves
 - c. Nothing needed if you wash immediately after
 - d. Latex coated PolyLaminate gloves
- 11) Decon involves _____.
- a. Multiple steps or stations
 - b. A scrubdown with brush
 - c. Soapy Water
 - d. Rinse with vinegar based water
- 12) Dry suits with detachable booties are ok for decontaminated diving.
- a. True
 - b. False

Team Discussion:

1. Discuss with your team the need for a contaminated water program within your organization
2. Review your teams' SOG/SOP for Environmental hazards as it pertains to your divers and support members
3. Review your teams' SOG/SOP as it pertains to the types of suits and masks you use for diving.
4. Review your teams' safety procedure with respect to diver and support safety.
5. Weather / Heat permitting, set up a mock dive and work within you normal response guidelines to set up a haz-mat decon station. This should be done with the assistance of the local fire department has-mat team and could be used as a multi-company drill.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Chemical spill information can be obtained by calling **1-800-424-9300**.

Dive Alert Network (DAN) 24-hour emergency hotline 1-919-684-9111 to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance for diving or non-diving incidents.

Life of a Crime Trivia Game_
Test your crime IQ and see how you
rank among other users.

<http://investigation.discovery.com/tv/life-of-a-crime/game/game.html>

These training agencies have recognized PSDiver Monthly as a valued addition to their programs and Continuing Education requirements.

Public Safety Diving

Association (PSDA) recognizes and approves the PSDiver CE program. Each month's Q&A program credits 1 CEU for renewal up to a maximum of 3 CEUs from this source for each year's renewal.



ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.

Life Saving Resources

Lifesaving Resources advocates the need for Public Safety and Rescue personnel to be trained in Water and Ice Rescue and recognizes the PSDiver Monthly CE Program for continuing education training and credits.



Lifeguard Systems – TEAM LGS



We welcome all training agencies and organizations to participate. For details, email <mailto:PSDiverMonthly@aol.com>

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Assistant Editors:

[Lynn Wright](#)

[Dominique Evans-Bye](#)

Continuing Education Editor: [Chuck Elgin](#)

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Calculating Cylinder Volume Based on Gauge Pressure

To calculate volume in a cylinder at pressure For Luxfer Cylinders multiply gauge pressure by the number below for the cylinder size.

80 cf	.0259	Example: 80 cf Gauge pressure is 1800 psi. .0259X1800 = 46.63 cf of air
50 cf	.01613	
40 cf	.01333	
19 cf	.0066	
13 cf	.0044	

