WATER RESPONSE TRAINING COUNCIL HAS BEEN FORMED!

Sittin’ on Ready – Rockin’ on Go
Lexington Fire Department Dive Team

Saltwater Aspiration Syndrome

VideoRay International Partnership Symposium 2011
Perspectives from a first time participant
Greetings,

So much has happened over the last month, I hardly know where to start! I may as well start with the release of the last issue.

As soon as the issue was finalized and the programming completed for the press release and web upload, I packed my travel bag and took off on my motorcycle. I had been invited to proctor/observe/help teach a class with a friend of mine. He was doing a 30 day program in Lexington, KY for the fire department. They had him come up and teach 3, 10 day classes – one for each shift. They are building a new dive team.

When I left home, I had planned on being in Lexington three or four days later. I made it in three days. I could have made it in two but I was on vacation and had no need to hurry. I took my time and enjoyed the change of scenery Arkansas and Missouri offered. I even had time to stop and visit with the VFD in Bull Shoals.

When I arrived in Lexington, it was late in the day. I was offered the opportunity to stay in one of the fire stations that was temporarily closed because of budget cuts. Ironically it was the rescue station where the technical rescue team had been stationed. I had intended on staying for just a couple of days but the folks there were so friendly, accommodating and made me feel so welcome, I was there for a week.

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When I left I headed towards North Carolina and made it as far as Gatlinburg, TN. I spent two nights there, the second waiting out a cold front and storm.

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When I left Gatlinburg, I kept heading towards North Carolina. Before I made it over the mountain that was in my way, that cold front made itself known and the temperature dropped to
just under 30 degrees. I did mention I was on a motorcycle... right? I was almost prepared for cold weather riding so I was pretty much OK. I could have used my cold weather gloves but did not pack them. The snow in the upper elevations layered across the trees until eventually all the magnificent colors I had been seeing turned to black and white. It was awesome.

I was determined to ride the Dragons Tail road. This is a roadway outside of Deals Gap that goes down the mountains to the foothills of Tennessee. What makes it so unique is the 322 turns in just 11 miles. I rode it twice. It was worth the trip. The next day I left and rode the 52 mile Cherohala Skyway. This stretch of road follows the mountain ridge and reaches elevations in excess of a mile high and ends in the plains of Tennessee. Where I was impressed with the colors in Arkansas and Missouri and in awe at the colors in Tennessee what I experienced along the Cherohala Skyway was just beyond words. There was snow, even some ice but I ever noticed the cold – not once.

From there I headed home. It took two days of long hard riding to get there but I made it back in one piece. But when I got home I learned that a water line had leaked in our upstairs bathroom. The leak was significant enough it took out my office, the bathroom and a spare bedroom. The second floor is over my garage so the water that leaked through leaked in my garage, not the main house.

It took about 4 days to get things in motion for insurance, contractors etc and on the fifth day back, I left for DEMA.

Now this part of my story needs a bit of background and maybe even a short side story.

For a very many years I have been pushing for a national standard for Public Safety Diving and have been part of a number
of groups, consulted with different agencies and organizations and even started a number of projects that were tasked with this goal. The problem with developing a national standard is that it needs some teeth, some backing and support and a group of people involved instead of just one or two. Otherwise, the document(s) developed are more opinions than consensus standards. I am not the first to want this and other groups have tried. Some of my inherited documentation mirrors the original NFPA 1006 and was typed on a typewriter with carbon paper. If you don’t know what that is, it is an ancient way of producing copies of a document using a sequenced blunt force instrument.

Years ago I realized that the most realistic way for us to achieve a goal of PSDiving being recognized as a true and separate discipline of diving and having a consensus standard was for those training agencies involved to form a training council. I have been pushing that ever since. It was actually tried once a few years ago and failed. Either the timing was off or the people involved were not terribly motivated.

Earlier this year a small group of PSDivers came together in a special discussion group and together we developed something we believe is a fair and accurate representation of what we do as PSDivers and what WE believe should be the foundation of a PSD standard. It took a lot of time to build and is an unsatisfying small but powerful document. Over time we and other PSDs were offered a chance to meet at DEMA and discuss standards.

The DEMA Show, being what it is, had already secured almost all of the training agencies as exhibitors and the majority of the group I mentioned were going to be in attendance for the show regardless. After the room and time was offered and secured, I realized how big of a mistake it would be for us to actually use that time to discuss standards. I doubt we would have discussed nearly as much as we did if we had turned the time into a bitch session. We HAVE a consensus document already. Who were we going to give it to?

I suggested that the time might be better utilized if the training agencies were invited instead and THEIR time spent on developing a foundation for a national training council. The idea was shared and was immediately instigated. We compiled a list of those agencies that had programs related to water rescue and recovery and invitations were sent.

I don’t know if you notice but I work very hard to keep PSDiver Monthly as unbiased as possible. I do the same when I post publically as well. That was recognized and I was asked to be the moderator for the meeting.

I think everyone invited agreed to show up except for three. One declined to participate at all and the other two objected to my participation as moderator. I was able to discuss the issue with one of them. I have to be honest, I was not happy with the answer I received and found it to be both professionally and personally insulting. One of the reasons offered, and the one I am going to band aid with, was that I am not an agency and it was felt that they needed the ability to discuss agency issues in private.
I know.

I could not and would not allow myself to be the reason this meeting failed or my presence to be their excuse for not participating. So I declined the moderator position and I uninvited myself from the meeting with the understanding that BOTH of those agencies would attend and participate. And they did. If you are going to be mad, be mad at me. I had more than one opportunity to be in the meeting but would have had to sit as a representative of one of the agencies. That goes against my attempts all these years to stay and present unbiased work.

I am pleased to be able to announce that we have finally managed to create a national training council for Public Safety Diving. It is to be known as the WRTC – Water Response Training Council.

**Press Release:**

**4 November 2011**

**Seven US-based public safety diving training agencies came together in an unprecedented round-table meeting at the DEMA Show venue in Orlando, Florida, to form the Water Response Training Council. This new council’s charter is to improve the safety of public safety divers and consumers through development of minimum training standards.**

**The following agencies: Dive Rescue International, (DRI) Emergency Response Diving International (ERDI), International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD), Life Guard Systems (LGS), Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Public Safety Diving Association (PSDA), and US Water Rescue are founding members of the new council.**

The new council will be working on the By-Laws, and then the standards. This will take some time as we are limited to where and when we can all get together. Good things take time.

The next meeting of the Water Response Training Council will take place early next year.

This is historic. It has been attempted in the past but up to now the idea was always met with suspicion and resistance from those involved. This time, a number of training agencies met, played nice with each other, and agreed on the formation of the council and adopted tentative bylaws and elected officers. This is beyond a simple meeting; I consider it a historic event.

While PSDiver Monthly and the discussion groups I developed and moderate provide us with a means to communicate and editorialize, even what I do cannot represent PSDivers the way I feel is necessary. We NEED an organization to be a voice for us. That organization NEEDS to be a consolidation of agencies that have standing in our field and combined resources that make them stronger as a council than individual agencies.

Once completed and engaged, the council will be the entity to whom we take our issues. For the first time we
will have the ability to be part of a change, not bystanders wondering why we are being forced to follow a standard we do not agree with. It also benefits the agencies by reducing and maybe eliminating the “for profit” suspicions and distrust that has grown in the PSD ranks.

So with that I need to offer an apology to those who attended DEMA and intended to participate in the standards meeting we had touted on the standards discussion group. Once the decision was made to convert it to a training agency meeting I got so wrapped up in it I failed to emphasize in my groups postings that the meeting had changed. I did post the information but it may not have been enough. While I did not participate in the meeting I was there when it started and the doors closed and DID talk with quite a few folks who came to participate in a meeting they could not attend. While I was able to explain to them what had happened and why, it left them hanging and maybe even a little angry. The posting to the groups since DEMA and the numerous emails and phone calls I have received tell me that this was an important meeting for a lot of people – more so than we had ever anticipated. It has been difficult for me to stay silent but even though I was not asked by the council to keep their secret, I knew it was important for them to be able to be united and that it was necessary for them to be unified with the information that was released. So I waited. Happily I was honored with the opportunity to be the one to first release the information. I thank them all for that.

That group met at DEMA and made more progress in two hours towards the goal of creating a National Water Response Training Council than has been made in the last 30 years. Some of you do not believe they should be involved in building standards or that “for profit” agencies should not be involved or be our voice. If you take the single agency out of the equation and have a consensus opinion and action plan developed by ALL the agencies, it is no longer a single “for profit” agency influencing our field. It is a group who is and will be charged with the responsibility of being our voice. Ours will be represented as a discipline of diving all our own. THIS IS the beginning of the creation of a national PSDiving standard!

Failure now will only come about if those participating quit. If they give up, they give up on us. If they allow past differences to be a focus of their time, they lose focus on us. If egos come out and begin to dominate, we lose.

It is getting cold again. It is time to get out ALL of your cold weather equipment and inspect it if you have not done so already. Go over your cold water rescue and recovery protocols and verify that your medical groups have them as well.

Plan ahead and be prepared. This could be a difficult winter for some of you.

Stay SAFE. Stay Warm!
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly
www.PSDiver.com

If you would like to discuss this topic or any other, join our discussion group:
CLICK HERE TO JOIN
Special To PSDiver

VideoRay International Partnership Symposium 2011
Perspectives from a first time participant

Dominique Evans-Bye

"It was 1971 or 72, we were installing a new diving system onto an oil rig back in Oslo. While we worked underwater, a demonstration of one of the first commercial ROVs was being staged for the oil company representative. It was an awful looking thing with balloons coming out of it, looked like footballs. It was buzzing around a diver, bumping into him. The controllability was not so good back then. The diver had enough of it bothering him, so he took out his knife and stabbed one of the balloons. The guys on the rig had to pull it back up and replace the buoyancy system. They sent it back down but kept their distance after that."—Gerald Langille

Talking with Gerald Langille of Pipe Eyes Inspections Ltd out of Nova Scotia, was just one of the networking highlights with various industry professionals at the VideoRay International Partnership Symposium, an annual microROV conference.

Langille told a story about a later recovery where he assisted the French government. A French vessel was upside down in the waters off Marystown, Newfoundland and there were reports of tapping coming from the hull. By time the government had located the vessel, it had submerged in approximately 500 feet of water. Four souls were missing and the families were desperate for closure. Two divers were sent down while Langille was tasked with penetrating a tight storage compartment with the ROV. The only issue was that Langille was using the VideoRay Explorer ROV, an entry level model rated only to 75 meters or 246 feet. Knowing full well he could suffer irreparable damage to the ROV, an essential tool for his underwater inspection business, he went ahead and dove the ROV to 480 feet to locate a victim lodged in the storage compartment. Divers were able to recover two more victims, but the captain was never found. Although VideoRay strongly recommends not exceeding manufacturer depth ratings, the experience speaks well for the durability of the product.

A course for new users was held poolside at the Hilton.
The agenda at VIPS was quite varied. It was apparent that much thought was given in the planning of the venue to ensure participants found the conference to be personally and professionally valuable. VIPS incorporated presentations, hands-on workshops and vendor demonstrations to fit the training needs of each participant. The buffet breakfasts provided seating at large round tables to make networking mandatory. Each day there was a multitude of topics to choose from in the presentations and hands-on workshops. A contest for new users of the Pro 4 was set up in the pool, under a waterfall to simulate ocean currents. Users had to place a golf ball onto a vertical PVC pipe under the waterfall. The contestant with the fastest time got a special prize at the awards ceremony, although anyone who completed the trial was acknowledged and received a fun award.

Government contractors from ISR Group who fly unmanned aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan to track convoys, support troops and find targets for the military, found a lot of similarities between flying the VideoRay Pro 4 ROV and their present assignments. The sonar system on the ROV was very much like the radar they operate on remote controlled aircraft, and the water currents they navigated in the exercise acted much like the air turbulence they encounter on the job. One pilot said in his first time out in the contest, he had no trouble at all setting the golf ball onto the PVC pipe.

At the awards dinner, keynote speaker Chris Fischer of OCEARCH, best known for his National Geographic production, Shark Men, had everyone on the edge of their seat with amazing high definition video of great white sharks, photographs of the expedition and of course the inside scoop of what National Geographic doesn’t share with their audience, such as the benefits of a Dos Equis sponsorship and the clash of egos when top scientists are brought together with top fishermen. The true passion Chris shows for the preservation of the ocean was absolutely inspiring. Chris emphasized the role of VideoRay in adding to the success of the project by providing ROVs equipped with high definition video to get up close and personal with our toothy predators.

A Coffee Mug for Public Safety Divers

You did not know you needed one of these did you? Just imagine how cool you will look in the morning drinking your coffee from this awesome mug. Hard to contain your excitement isn’t it? Limited supply – Don’t wait until they are gone and live with regret for the rest of your life! ....Order Yours Here!
friends. ROV operators Brian Luzzi and Craig Thorngren were tasked with using the ROV to follow released sharks into the depths to confirm the health of the animals after capture and tagging.

Our U.S. Coast Guard was in attendance, having just upgraded all their VideoRay Pro 3 ROVs to Pro 4s. LT Namon Dimtroff with 17 years’ experience, found Steve Van Meter’s workshop for working in current and ROV tether rigging to be most valuable along with an Advanced Technical Maintenance workshop and an introduction to a course offered by A-T Solutions, Remotely Operated Vehicle Underwater Hazardous Device Search Course.

Dimtroff summed it up by saying, “Here you get techniques from guys with experience rather than trying to invent it yourself on the fly.”

Wayne Stoner, Senior Program Manager, Maritime Security for A-T Solutions is one of the guys with experience to share. He’s pulled together a team of ROV operators and explosive ordnance disposal divers to train public safety professionals to search, identify, mark, report, and assist in mitigation of suspect and actual underwater hazardous devices. This course is taught on a team’s home turf in order to be most effective in providing training to fit the needs of the customer. As Stoner puts it, the course is awareness and response training for the ROV operator. It provides enhanced ROV capability for immediate response to the threat of an underwater hazardous device, and aligns with the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Detail response. Stoner noted that this 40-hour course does not teach render-safe procedures for explosive devices. Training on submerged explosives can be offered to dive teams without ROVs in the Underwater Hazardous Device Search Course as an option. Stoner recommends applying for a Department of Homeland Security grant to cover training costs and equipment. A DHS grant award could also fund the purchase of an ROV for qualified public safety dive teams.

VIPS gives participants plenty of time to talk to a wide number of vendors about products for ROV payload tools, or products such as side scan sonar that are used in conjunction with ROVs. LYNN video enhancement software significantly clears up video from murky conditions.
water, either in real time or during post-processing. The company demonstrated the effectiveness of their product at Jule’s Lagoon, a couple miles from the conference. Shuttles were on hand to take participants back and forth from the in-water demonstrations.

BlueView and TriTech showcased their multibeam sonars in the lagoon, allowing participants fly time at the controls. SeeByte and Smart Tether had positioning systems for the ROV that performed mapping and documentation of the ROV through a search area. Smart Tether demonstrated how a Google Map image could be brought in as a screen overlay to illustrate the geography of the search area. SeeByte takes it a step further and allows users to preprogram a search pattern to be flown autonomously on site. EdgeTech featured their side-scan sonar and EdgeDive Tech introduced a magnetometer accessory for ROV operations. Participants could talk with representatives from Teledyne RD Instruments who offer a whole line of marine measurement tools.

People considering buying an ROV got a great overview of the capabilities of the technology available. Owners had the opportunity to expand their knowledge and look towards the future with add-ons and improvements. Maintenance courses offered a chance for minor repairs to VideoRay systems that were brought to the conference. Any current or potential ROV operator could benefit from the opportunities presented by VIPS.

Conversation over beverages was common place in the evenings. One discussion centered on the Coast Guard, their equipment and capabilities. “The Coast Guard has potpourri” one man authoritatively declared. This statement seemed a bit odd, but it was shrugged off, thinking “well, ok, so the Coasties want to stay fresh when they are out at sea,” all the while picturing foot lockers with neatly folded tee-shirts, socks and underwear with satchels of delicately scented dried flora tucked inside. Just to confirm this was indeed a priority for our military men deployed on U.S. shores, it was restated, “so the guys like potpourri, huh?” The surprised response came back, “Potpourri?” “No, they have Pro 3s!” It could have been the hour, the alcohol’s effect on a southern drawl, or maybe just from ears with too many years of diving to jump from “Pro 3s” to “potpourri,” but it was worth a good chuckle to end a great conference.

Next year the symposium is planned for late October or early November. Details will be posted at www.videoRay.com as they become available.

Dominique Evans-Bye is the Ventura County Sheriff’s SAR Dive Team Research and Development Officer and an Associate Editor for PSDiver Monthly

PSDiver Monthly Issue 89 10
Father and son are fishing at a city park. Witness hears a man holler for help followed by a lot of splashing. The witness walks to the edge of a hill and looks down to the lake and sees fishing poles strewn on the ground at the edge of the lake and the water has been disrupted but is settling down. The man and boy that she had seen just minutes ago are no where in sight. She calls 911 to report a possible drowning. She is concerned but does not want to be involved and as soon as she hangs up, she leaves.

The dive team arrives within 10 minutes and immediately begin a number of well choreographed tasks. There is no one at the pond. Their only clue to a possible location is some scattered fishing gear on the ground. It is enough.

Based on the relayed witness information and what they see, they decide there is still time for a possible rescue and immediately go into action. Within minutes of their arrival the first diver enters the water and 23 minutes from the time the 911 call is received, the first victim is brought out of the water.

That is a good, positive outcome and one rescue discipline the Lexington Fire Department could not perform – until now.

About 8 years ago, Major Greg Bayer led an exploratory committee and conducted a risk assessment of the rescue capabilities of the Lexington Fire Department. To do the assessment the committee reviewed as much relevant material as they could find including NIOSH reports of firefighters drowning. The committee specifically looked at identifying where problems were and used their information to formulate a basic idea of training and equipment. The goal was to acquire appropriate equipment and training to build and launch a Technical Rescue dive team.

The next step was funding. The Lexington fire
Department Rescue Team covers the 280 square miles of Fayette County and the 400,000 people who live and work there. They also assist throughout a fifteen county area in the Blue Grass region of central Kentucky. They have 14 miles of the Kentucky River and literally hundreds of farm ponds within their own service area. This range of response area would later become one of the reasons they were successful with their grant. The assessment identified an area of rescue that LFD was missing – and missing in a big way: Static water rescue and response. With a dive component added to their rescue team, they become the only PSD team within a 100 mile radius.

Bayer said “We have always had divers, never a dive team”. If a drowning occurred inside the Lexington city limits or the surrounding region, the choice for a submerged recovery was either to call in an outside department to dive or in worst cases, use “drag hooks”. Options were limited at best.

Bayer said “After we completed our risk assessment we recognized that our capabilities were incomplete. The diving discipline of technical rescue was missing and was needed to complete our circle of technical rescue and service ability” said Bayer.

It took almost eight years to complete the project and it concluded with the department submitting a Department of Homeland Security Grant through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. According to Bayer, it took around two years to actually put the grant together and six months to write the final submission draft.

After it was submitted, it took about four months to get an acknowledgement that they had been awarded the
grant. While they waited, there were three drowning calls within their response district that included two submerged and occupied vehicles.

**Lessons learned:**

"Task assignments need to be quick and clear to help speed diver splash."

When asked why the fire department felt the need to get involved with diving, Bayer replied “It is the right thing to do. When Joe Public calls there is no way for us to transfer the risk of rescue or recovery. We have a responsibility to perform rescue as firefighters and have no way to refuse the call because there is no way to transfer that risk. It is the right thing to do.”

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Buck Buchanan, an Instructor Trainer for ERDI and owner of Dive911 arrived and immediately set the tone for thirty days of hard, intense, no nonsense dive training. By the end of the thirty days, the participants will have earned certifications for Dry Suit, Full Face Mask, Surface Supplied Air, Emergency Response Diver Level 1 and Emergency Response Diver Level 2. By the end of the training, each diver will have logged no less than twenty five mission oriented dives and rotated through each dive team position. Four members of the team would receive a Dive Supervisor Certification.

In order to pull this training feat off, Buck spent a week in Lexington scouting lakes, ponds and river sites that would provide a variety of diving environments. These included ponds he named “Peanut Butter Pond”, “Weed Eater Heaven” and “Sticky Mud Pond”. Each of these bodies of water afforded a remarkable difference in diving conditions and when sites on the Kentucky River were added, the students were introduced to most every diving environment they would likely come across. Gaining permission to use the sites and secure training pools was a logistical nightmare. But the preplanning that was
conducted prior to the class and the assistance the LFD gave him afforded Buck the opportunity to conduct an extraordinarily well rounded dive program based on local water scenario training.

Confined water training was conducted at the University of Kentucky and the North Side YMCA. These controlled/confined training sites were vital to the class and provided safe and deep water. A relationship was also established by and for LFD with the two sites that should allow the dive team a place to train when they need a place to conduct training in confined water.

To qualify to be on the team applicants had to submit a letter of interest and pass a deal breaker swim test. A point system was used to score applicants and those who were already certified as scuba divers or were already assigned to a technical rescue company were awarded bonus points. All of the applicants had to pass a medical physical exam as well. Major Bayer had over 50 firefighters apply for a position on the dive team. Only 33 made it through. Those that did immediately started a grueling schedule that began with pool training. They worked in clear controlled water for 8 hours a day for three days straight just learning the basics. They learned everything from gear setup to emergency drills for self and diver rescue.

When considering what equipment to purchase, consideration had to be given to the future of both the team and future growth and need for replacement equipment, repair and service, and training. The equipment had to be “bullet proof”. It had to be serviceable and safe. The problem though was cost and recognition that their grant money was finite. Unlike our modern politicians, Bayer and his group focused on quality while working to make their funds stretch as far as possible without sacrificing quality or safety.

Because they had thirty three divers to outfit, they needed the ability to share equipment.

Aside from the small goods, the team decided on the DUI Public Safety TLS350 Drysuits and the Interspiro Divator DP1 Surface Supply Diving System. This combination allowed the team to purchase just six drysuits in varied sizes and drysuit seals for each of the divers. With the removable seal

Lessons learned: "Know your limits"
system, the drysuits are easily reconfigured on site by the divers. The surface supplied air system from Interspiro allows them to have continued air and incorporates a system of diving that is easy to learn and use. The class itself, being 30 days of nonstop dive training, was a torture test – a destructive testing lab or sorts – for all of the dive gear. The DUI dry suits performed just as expected and suffered minimal wear on the sleeves. The Interspiro SSA system was taxed with constant abuse from mud, clay, sand and grit as well as use abuse. The system had some issues that were directly related to care and cleaning or dive site conditions. It was estimated that the suits themselves received the equivalent of 5 years of use and abuse over the life of the class. All in all, the equipment chosen for the team proved to be a very good choice.

Lessons learned:
“Problems have to be solved one at a time and in the order of importance”.

The Kentucky State Police is gearing up to build a dive team and has asked Lexington for a copy of their equipment list. The goal for the KSP will be to purchase equipment and conduct training so that the two teams will have interoperability.

All of the students are at least Open Water Scuba certified and a few of them got their OW certification just so they could participate in the training program. With only a couple of exceptions, the team is a very young team and has not developed any bad habits yet. This made their training go a lot smoother and much more efficient. As a consequence, the team, as a whole, learned basic techniques and fundamentals and in a matter of days was able to perform in scenario training like an older established team.

Lessons learned:
“Control the scene better and don’t be afraid to delegate tasks as necessary”.

Once away from the swimming pool training, the team was introduced to a variety of diving environments and began learning a wide variety of skills necessary to perform rescue response diving techniques as well as underwater search and recovery in zero visibility. They learned techniques to find small objects like a set of car keys, and they learned how to find and recover a large object like an automobile. Safety concerns were a top priority in their
training and, as such, were an integral aspect of their training. Self rescue and diver / team rescue skills were hammered into them.

They have a way to go but maturity comes with age. However, skills that are learned and knowledge that is absorbed when young is able to be applied quickly in sequence once learned and practiced. The Lexington Fire Department Dive Team did just that. When their instructor Buck Buchanon said “These are my car keys, I am going to want them back” as he tossed them into the middle of a muddy pond, he did so knowing they would be back in his hand before lunch.

Credit their leadership, their administrative support, the commitment of the divers, their training or a combination of all the above because - Yea – they are that good.

And they are just getting started.

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**NEWS**

**Bodies wanted: Bones, corpses and unsolved murders at San Marcos ‘Body Farm’**


Oct 5th, 2011 Posted by Jorge Garcia

More than a dozen dead bodies are scattered on a 26-acre site outside of San Marcos. They lie under the sun or...
are buried in makeshift graves, but police aren’t investigating – nor will they.

Instead, graduate students from Texas State University are studying the corpses to learn how they decompose. The outdoor laboratory is not filled with the aroma of death, unless a person crosses paths with a body in its early decaying stages, according to at least one researcher.

“It depends how long the body has been out there,” said Daniel Wescott, the director of the school’s forensic anthropology center, which oversees the laboratory. “After a couple of days it gets pretty potent, but it eventually goes away.”

The study of dead bodies may be a stomach-churning field for the budding forensic anthropologists, but at least they hear no complaints from their subjects.

The forensic anthropology research facility at Freeman Ranch, nicknamed the “Body Farm,” is the largest of its kind in the world, claims Wescott. In 2008, the laboratory opened and drew lots of attention. There, students photograph the bodies and track the rate of decomposition.

Studying human decomposition in the Texas climate is perhaps the body farm’s main purpose. In hot and dry conditions, the body begins a mummification process, slowing down the rate of decay as chemical changes are reduced, Wescott says.

“We study how rainfall, heat, wind and other climate factors affect human decomposition,” he said.

Other researchers study insect activity as well as marks left by vultures and other scavengers during the different stages of decomposition.
There are 14 bodies currently at the site, most of them on the surface and others buried a few feet underground.

When the body is finished at the outdoor lab, it is processed into a skeleton to be studied again. Boxes of skeletons are stored at the forensic center in San Marcos, where current and future researchers will analyze the bones.

“We retain the skeleton in perpetuity,” Wescott says. “We’re known for decomposition studies, but in reality these skeletons will probably be used for hundreds of years.”

Thus far, at least 37 bodies have been donated to the center, and another 90 living people have signed on to donate their bodies after they die. Besides furthering science, it’s a cheaper alternative to burial. If the body is located within a 200-mile radius, the center takes care of all expenses, Wescott says.

“People are really interested in donating,” Wescott says of those who offer their bodies to science. “They’re excited about being part of the study.”

**Identifying the unknown**

In the same room as the donated bodies, nameless human remains sit in similar brown boxes. Local law enforcement bring bones, either recently discovered or from cold cases, into the center. Researchers study the bones to create a biological profile, which includes age, sex, stature, ancestry, trauma and an estimated time of death.

“It’s at the heart of what forensic anthropology is,” said Caryn Tegtmeyer, a student researcher. “The biological profile helps police narrow down their investigation.”

At times, a DNA sample is collected and sent to the University of North Texas Forensics Lab to aid in the identification process. More often than not, identity is found through dentition and X-ray comparisons, since DNA can be fragmented and the method is costly and time consuming, researchers say.
“Ultimately it provides identity,” Michelle Hamilton, a professor at the center, says of the process. “It gives that person their identity back.”

In late March, Tegtmeyer and other students were called out to Comal County to recover the remains of a 33-year-old Dripping Springs man. The body had been there for a few years, it was assumed, and his bones were scattered by animals.

“A girl playing near her yard came across the mandible in a dry creek bed,” she said. “One of his arms and fingers had been dragged quite a ways from his body.”

Tegtmeyer and others did a line search and found a majority of the bones, on which they conducted a biological profile. Their research led law enforcement to determine the man’s identity and that he had died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, she said.

“It’s not as easy as it looks on TV,” Tegtmeyer said of the process. “It’s not something you can do overnight.”

Being part of active investigations, students receive real-world, hands-on training, Hamilton says.

“You feel an additional responsibility,” she said. “You’re not just writing a report for report’s sake. It’s for family and law enforcement.”

The most important thing to remember, says Director Wescott, is that the unknown remains were once living people.

“If we can identify them we can help bring closure, or bring new life to a murder case,” Wescott says. “It’s kind of hard to prosecute somebody without a body. But it could be very well that one of these is the missing body.”

**Body donations:**

To sign up as a living donor and help further research, go to the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) website here. There, you can download a living donor packet, which you fill out and return to the center in order to be added to the list of willful donors.

**Read more:**

- Potential clues found
State police divers search Sangerville stream for evidence connected to Bingham robbery

Oct. 06, 2011 Diana Bowley | BDN

SANGERVILLE, Maine — Several members of the state police dive team spent much of Thursday searching for evidence along the swampy shore and murky depths of Carleton Stream in Sangerville.

Part of the stream runs parallel to Route 23 across from the home of James Stile, 55, who was arrested last month in connection with the Sept. 12 armed robbery of the E. W. Moore Pharmacy on Main Street in Bingham.

Stile allegedly entered the pharmacy at about 5:20 p.m. wearing a mask, ball cap and sunglasses and armed with a gun. Once inside, he demanded prescription drugs and cash, according to Lt. Carl Gottardi II of the Somerset County Sheriff’s Department. Stile ordered the four employees and a patron who were inside the pharmacy to get on the floor and then he bound their hands, Gottardi said. No one was hurt.

Piscataquis and Somerset County deputies, aided by the Maine State Police Tactical team, searched Stile’s home the day after the robbery and found 152 marijuana plants, drug paraphernalia, and cultivation equipment. A 1996 bluish-green Ford Windstar and an all-terrain vehicle were impounded but it is unknown what other evidence was found.
seized as part of the robbery investigation. A second search was conducted at the home a few days later.

Stile was taken into custody without incident after the first search and was charged with Class A robbery. His bail was set at $250,000 cash or $500,000 single surety. He is currently being held at the Somerset County Jail.

Gottardi declined Thursday to say what police were searching for, specifically, on Thursday. Instead, he said the searchers were looking for any possible evidence related to the robbery. Federal authorities are also investigating the robbery.

I could've reached her: chopper pilot
Oct 7, 2011 By Anna Leask

New York police divers have revealed more details about the frantic efforts to rescue a Kiwi woman and her partner after the helicopter they were in crashed in New York's East River and sank "like a bag of stones".

And the pilot has spoken of his own desperate efforts to save Wellington-born Helen Tamaki's partner of 15 years.
before the helicopter sank into the pitch-black water, drowning the woman.

Ms Tamaki, 43, remained in a critical condition last night in New York's Bellevue Hospital with serious head injuries after the crash on Tuesday afternoon.

Her partner, Sydney-based Briton Sonia Marra Nicholson, was trapped in the helicopter, which landed upside down in the swift-moving water.

Ms Nicholson's parents, Harriet and Paul, were also on the flight.

The helicopter crashed about 20m from the helipad pilot Paul Dudley - a long-time friend of the Nicholson family - took off from.

Mr Dudley told his lawyer Robert Hantman he knew there was a problem "immediately".

"He mentioned they had taken off and then he had some mechanical problems. He decided to land. Before he could land, the helicopter went out of control," Mr Hantman told US media.

After the helicopter hit the water, Mr Dudley freed himself and pulled Ms Tamaki and Mrs Nicholson from the wreckage.

"He got them out, released their seat belts, helped them get to the surface. And the third person he wasn't able to get to in time," said Mr Hantman.

Mr Dudley said: "I couldn't get her ... Ten seconds more and I could have had her ... I yelled, I needed help."

Police Lieutenant Larry Serras: "There were two women floating unconscious near the wreckage who could do nothing at all to help themselves. One woman had a severe head wound, and they were face-down.

"I was trying to concentrate on the women. The detectives held the women face-up out of the water. It was tricky. It was tough. We were losing control."

Rescuers on a nearby pier threw a rope to their colleagues in the water and the...
y pulled the survivors to shore. They began chest compressions on the women while they were still in the water.

"We did what we could," said Detective James Coll.

Meanwhile, the helicopter was still sinking with Ms Nicholson trapped inside.

Mr Serras said: "[Mr Dudley] was yelling to us that there was an additional person trapped in the helicopter. By the time we arrived, the helicopter was under. I stood on it for a brief second before it slipped away from me on my feet ... The helicopter had submerged and there was no way we could get to it."

When divers later reached the wreckage at the bottom of the river, they found Ms Nicholson.

"She was unbuckled," said New York Police Department diver Jason Gregory. "She had been trying desperately to get out."

Ms Tamaki, an IT specialist who also lives in Sydney, had organised the trip to New York and the helicopter ride for Ms Nicholson's 40th birthday.

It is understood Ms Nicholson had not seen her family in years and made plans to meet them at the top of the Empire State Building as soon as she and Ms Tamaki arrived in the city. She was said to be afraid of flying, but excited about the trip.

Mr Nicholson was not seriously injured and his wife regained consciousness on Wednesday and was in a stable condition.

Ms Tamaki's mother and sister were on their way to New York yesterday to be at her side. Doctors were concerned that she may have sustained serious brain or lung damage. Her sister Suzanne hoped to know more when her family reached New York, but said Ms Tamaki was getting the best possible care.

**Body pulled from water off Olive Park Beach**


October 7, 2011

A body is being recovered from the waters of Lake Michigan on the Near North Side Friday afternoon.
Police Marine Unit personnel responded after someone saw a body floating near Olive Park Beach off Ohio Street, according to a Marine Unit spokesman. “Police are making the recovery,” Fire Media Affairs spokesman Kevin MacGregor said at 4 p.m.

A 51-year-old Berkeley man went missing in the lake not far from there last Saturday.

Police said the man was with family members when he went into the water near Oak Street Beach and was overcome by high waves. Companions tried to rescue him but couldn’t pull him in, police said.

Divers searched the lake Sunday morning, but poor underwater visibility forced them to suspend the work.

**Seine reveals her secrets to Paris River Police**

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-15287115

14 October 2011

The River Seine in Paris is for many people the most romantic stretch of water in the world. But for the Paris River Police it is a place of work - rescuing or recovering people who end up in its waters and searching for discarded criminal evidence.

The Brigade Fluviale have been working their unique beat for more than 100 years.

The day shift starts with a 3-km (1.8-mile) swim in the river, around the Ile de la Cite, where Notre Dame cathedral is located.

"It's very hard today," says Pascal Jacquin as he emerges from the cold, dark water.

He is an expert diver and boat handler who has worked for the Fluviale for 27 years. Three times a week he joins the junior officers for the early-morning swim.

**Survival instinct**

The Brigade Fluviale know the Seine better than anybody else, particularly its dangerous currents which can suddenly pin a diver to the bottom or sweep them far downstream.
"She's like a woman, you have to care about her, you have to feed her, you have to touch her - we need to know her mood” said Pascal Jacquin - Police diver.

For Mr Jacquin, his morning swim is a way of understanding the river and renewing his relationship with it.

"[It's] like communion with the river, she lets me be with her," he says.

"You have to keep up with the river because it's what we work with and we need to know what she feels today.

"She's like a woman, you have to care about her, you have to feed her, you have to touch her - we need to know her mood today."

The elite squad are all divers, swimmers and boat handlers as well as armed officers.

Their most important role is what they call intervention, going to the aid of someone who has fallen or jumped - or is about to jump - into the river.

They have found that when people hit the water, survival instinct often takes over.

"It's a reflex," says Mr Jacquin, recalling a call-out to a woman they found clinging to the Alexandre III Bridge.

"She was having a bad moment of life - I don't know what about. The moment she was in the water she probably realised it was just a bad moment, but she could not get out without us.

"She was so beautiful I wanted to say to her 'why are you here?'"

Two days later they got another call to the same bridge.

"That was the bizarre thing, a guy was holding exactly the same piece of rope in the water, in the same exact place. He was an old guy, 75 or something."
Unlike the young woman they rescued, the old man could not stop talking. "He was melting in excuses. He was so sorry saying 'I lost my wife a week ago, I can't live without her, I tried to kill myself because my life is finished but I can't do that. I'm so sorry to have bothered you'. "I said, 'are you kidding me, you're not bothering us, we're doing our job, we feel sorry for you. I know it's hard for you but it's going to be ok'. It was so nice."

Fingertip searches
Eric Calvet is in charge of the evening patrol, the time of day when things tend to happen. He and his team survey the river banks while a group of people party by the water's edge.

"Alcohol is the problem," he says, before he is interrupted by a call. A young woman is reported to have thrown herself into the Seine from the Pont de la Concorde.

The highspeed boat gets them to the bridge in seconds while that night's designated diver puts his kit on. The rest of the team stand on deck with torches, checking the bridge's pillars to see if anyone is clinging to them.

Soon they spot a young woman on the bridge being comforted by a friend. She is dressed for a night out, but looks pale and distraught.

A passer-by had persuaded her not to jump and she is now surrounded by police - Eric and his team can withdraw knowing she is safe.

Another important part of their job is recovering criminal evidence, which can range from guns to gold.

One case Mr Jacquin is particularly proud of involved a gang who had taken a hostage, then tortured and killed the man.

The ringleader threw the victim's watch, a fake Rolex, off the Pont St Michel and, when the gangster was caught, the watch became vital evidence.

It was a tough ask to find it, he says, as there was zero visibility in the river. It was the middle of winter and the
freezing cold divers had to do a fingertip search of the river bed.

"When it happened it was winter and really high water and impossible to find the thing. But we kept looking and we found it," he says.

Another time they were charged to find a gun that had been used to pistol-whip a victim.

"We found the gun two days after and there was a piece of skin in the trigger, so it was proof," Mr Jacquin explains.

"I mean you don't like what you find, but you know this is the end of the story, this guy will go to jail for a long time. It’s a good thing to finalise and bring an answer to a mystery."

Related Stories
- Top model’s body found in river
- Two die after Paris boat accident
- Boat hits central Paris bridge

Underwater Gendarme begins on BBC Radio 4 Sunday, 16 October, at 14:45 BST.
No bodies found in cars submerged in lake

10/15/2011

More than a dozen officials stood in a semicircle around a vehicle Tuesday afternoon at Lake Shawnee as two firefighters worked with an axe and another implement to pry open the battered automobile's trunk.

The car - a 1990's model Oldsmobile that had seen better days - had just been dredged from the lake water as the second of two vehicles recovered that day.

The two firefighters raised the trunk and many more eyes began to peer into its space.

"There's nothing of interest at this point in either vehicle," said Todd Stallbaumer, a sergeant with the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office.

Stallbaumer spoke to media members near the Shawnee Yacht Club following the removal of the second vehicle, which was being loaded in the background onto the bed of a Brown's Super Service tow truck.

The first vehicle - a 1980's model Chevrolet Camaro - was pulled about noon from the lake's north side in 30-foot deep water near the dam that forms the body of water. The second one reached land about 3 p.m. on the lake's west side.

Authorities believe both submerged vehicles bore Kansas license plates. Stallbaumer said he wasn't sure if either vehicle was stolen.

Two detectives were taking the lead on the first car, Stallbaumer said. Authorities were planning to work into the evening on processing both vehicles, he said, and learning more information about their ownership and how they came to be at the bottom of the lake.

Stallbaumer said both cars are being examined at Brown's Super Service.

The cars make the second and third dredged from the lake in the past four months. However, the first one - dredged in June - wasn't...
Unlike the cars recovered Tuesday, the one pulled from near the Shawnee Yacht Club in June - a 1976 Oldsmobile 98 - contained human remains. They later were identified as belonging to Leonard Jordan, 84, a Milwaukee man who disappeared in 1984 after visiting family members in Topeka.

Officers determined there were no signs of foul play in the death. Jordan's family said he liked to fish at Lake Shawnee.

Stallbaumer said authorities were pleased with how Tuesday's operation went, which he called a "great cooperative effort" between many agencies.

Authorities first try to "get a good look" at a recovered vehicle without getting into it and cleaning it out, Stallbaumer said, to determine there isn't anything obvious.

"Then we'll take it and process it further and continue the investigation," he said.

He said investigators weren't expecting anything noteworthy to arise from digging deeper into the cars. "This was the best-case scenario for the conditions that we had was recovering these two vehicles with nothing of interest inside," he said.

Assisting in the recovery operations were the Overland Park Police Department's Water Rescue and Recovery Unit; Shawnee County Sheriff's Office; Lake Shawnee Park Police; the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Shawnee Heights Fire Department; Mission Township Fire Department; Shawnee County Emergency Management; American Medical Response; and Brown's Super Service.

devoid of human remains.

Several months ago, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism discovered what officials believed were two submerged vehicles as they tested new sonar equipment on the lake. They notified the parks police, who scheduled retrieval of the cars. The third car was found when pinpointing the location of one of the other vehicles.

The Overland Park Police Department's Rescue and Recovery Unit, a diving team, spent more than three hours Tuesday morning locating the Camaro and hooking it up to be towed out of the lake.

Officer Michael Benton was one of the divers. He said the team wasn't able to see anything below 10 feet under the lake's surface.

After a wrecker pulled the Camaro to shore, the team shifted to the other site on the lake's west side near the Shawnee Yacht Club.

When the wrecker dislodged the Cadillac from the bottom of the lake, it partially rose to the surface near the bank upside down with two of its tires and part of the undercarriage visible. The cables were then arranged so that the car would flip onto its wheels when it was pulled onto and up the steep, rocky shore.

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Police hunt sunken car's driver
October 17, 2011 by: Doug Robertson

A MAN who rolled a green-coloured Nissan sedan into the lake at Mawson Lakes this morning is on the run.

Witnesses told police they saw the man running away after the car sank to the bottom of the lake near Peninsula Drive about 4am.

The car was completely submerged and will be removed from the lake later today, police said.

"The man seen running from the car is described as about 170cm tall, wearing a pale-coloured shirt and white track pants," a spokesman said.

"Police divers from the Water Operations Section will examine the car this morning."

Anyone with information about the car - with SA registration WHL-393 - should contact BankSA Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 or online at: www.sa.crimestoppers.com.au

Divers won't search Wednesday for man who fell into Allatoona
October 19, 2011 by Fran Jeffries The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Divers won't resume their search Wednesday for a 68-year-old, wheelchair-bound man who fell into Lake Allatoona while getting off a large boat on Saturday, authorities said.

Related
- Photos: Lake Allatoona searched for missing man
"Because of the weather and other factors at the site, divers will not be used today to search," said Rick Lavender, a spokesman for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He said Bartow County Fire and Sheriff's officials, along with DNR, will be checking the area, keeping an eye on the water.

Divers have searched the lake since Saturday afternoon after Tommy E. Moore, of Plainfield, Ind., fell into the lake at Park Marina. Moore was getting off the boat to return to a dock when the boat separated from the dock and Moore fell into the water, authorities said.

Moore was at the lake to attend a family reunion. He was not wearing a life jacket at the time he went into the water, authorities said. About 20 people on the boat at the time of the incident. Two of them jumped in immediately but weren't able to find Moore.

Rescuers recovered Moore's wheelchair during one of several dives they attempted on Saturday until visibility was affected by nightfall, authorities said. Since Saturday, divers have attempted to locate Moore. Rescue equipment -- including sonar and a drag system were hampered by the water's depth of about 60-75 feet; by cables underneath the dock, and by construction debris in the area, according to the DNR.

**Police divers in lake hunt for murder gun**


20th October 2011 By Stephen Mather

POLICE divers have been searching the murky waters of Taylor Park boating lake in the hunt for the weapon used to kill a father-of-two.

A police spokesperson confirmed that the gun, used to blast Christopher Honnor in the chest in a shocking daytime slaying, has yet to be found.

Onlookers spotted underwater search teams exploring the St Helens park’s lake, which is about two miles from the scene in Prescot where Mr Honnor was gunned down.

The police spokesman said: “The police activity in Taylor Park last Saturday was linked to the search for the...
weapon and it is ongoing. “It is the only place we have searched based on information we have and wasn’t a random location.”

The 40-year-old died in hospital shortly after he was shot in a flat on Warrington Road in Prescot last Thursday (October 13).

In harrowing scenes, he staggered out of his home above a row of busy shops, including an off licence and florist, before collapsing outside.

Speaking to the Star last week, a woman who works at a shop close by said that in the moments following the shooting, onlookers suspected Mr Honnor was a regular customer who had stumbled over, however, it soon became apparent he was seriously injured. She explained: “As I was coming on shift, a colleague said a customer dashed into the shop saying there was a fellow outside covered in blood. When she went outside, the man was already on the floor.”

Christopher Strettle (43), from Park Avenue in Eccleston Park, has been charged with murder and 41-year-old Lesley Strettle, of the same address, has been charged with assisting an offender.

They appeared at South Sefton Magistrates’ Court last Saturday (October 15).

A 37-year-old woman from Prescot, who was arrested in connection with the incident, has been released without charge.

Missing vehicles found in Melbourne pond - Police divers come up big in rumored dumping ground


MELBOURNE — Pockets of air floating to the surface served as the first sign. A beer bottle was the second. Finally, a slime-coated wheel and a quarter panel bobbed in the pond west of Wickham Road.

The Chevrolet Monte Carlo that eventually emerged was one of six vehicles that police divers hauled from a watery grave of automobiles, boats, scooters and hot tubs. The car’s transmission was still in “drive,” and keys dangled from its ignition.
Acting on tips and rumors, the Melbourne Police Department executed “Operation Muddy Wheels” in the stagnant, smelly pond in hopes of closing several cases of stolen vehicles or insurance fraud. The effort’s commander, Lt. Dan Lynch, said car thieves often use vehicles in burglaries, then unload them in remote locations such as this common dumping ground, accessible only by a network of dirt trails southwest of Wuesthoff Medical Center-Melbourne.

“We’re just trying to figure out where they came from,” Lynch said. “We’re also trying to stop people from dropping them into the lake ... and cut back on the nefarious behavior out here.”

Four of the half-dozen vehicles were determined to be stolen. One, a Chevrolet Blazer chock full of silt, was taken from its Palm Bay owner in 2007. The others: a GMC Sierra, a Ford Thunderbird, a Ford Ranger and a Buick LeSabre.

The police divers, assisted by Brevard County Sheriff’s Office deputies, started searching the large pond at first light Wednesday. They contended with glass shards, snakes, leaking gasoline and visibility-killing murk.

“We’re down there primarily working with our sense of touch,” said Detective Jay Hazelett, an eight-year member of Melbourne’s dive team. “It’s not a job for anyone with claustrophobia.”

The crisscrossing and muddied pathways around the lake are frequented by thrill-seekers: ATV riders and operators of four-wheel-drive pickups. Trespassers on the private land are the source of much carousing: races, drunken target practice and bonfires.
Such partying — known over the years to cause injuries and brush fires — has pained police officers who have lacked the resources for regular patrols. And Wednesday wasn’t the first time vehicles have been uncovered here.

But the operation was part of an effort to stifle the activity.

“They like to party out here,” Hazelett said. “They just drive around until they get tired of the car or ruin it. Then they’ll drive them into the lake.”

“We’re very careful to do a full investigation,” said Lynch, the lieutenant heading up the operation. “You never know when we pop the trunk: There could be a dead body.”

The only casualties discovered Wednesday: fish.

**Police divers search river for stolen safes**


October 25, 2011

POLICE divers today (Monday) will search the Shoalhaven River for safes and other items believed taken in armed robberies on the South Coast.

Shoalhaven police in July formed Strike Force Matthew to investigate armed robberies and aggravated break-and-enter offences involving the theft of safes. Last Monday, October 17, a 35-year-old man was arrested and charged after he allegedly snatched a sum of cash from the hands of a 93-year-old man in an office on Plunkett St, Nowra.

Further investigations revealed the man was allegedly involved in an armed robbery at a grocery store on Moss Vale Rd, Kangaroo Valley, on Saturday, October 8, police say.
Detectives are continuing investigations into the incident and would like to speak with two men who might be able to assist with inquiries.

Strike Force detectives are investigating possible links between these incidents, an armed robbery at Medicare on Berry St, Nowra, in which a firearm was produced on September 21, among other incidents.

Subsequent investigations have lead police to believe property associated with the robberies may have been dumped in the Shoalhaven River.

Detectives would also like to speak with fishermen, or anyone who frequents the Shoalhaven River, who may have noticed suspicious activity.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Nowra Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

SPONSOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

EdgeTech Expands

EdgeTech and affiliate ORE Offshore have recently added another 7,500 sq/ft of manufacturing and office space to their Massachusetts facility. The manufacturer of side scan sonars, sub-bottom profilers, bathymetry systems, acoustic releases, USBL systems and other specialized underwater acoustic solutions, continues to grow in size and product offerings. The new space will be used to supplement the factory floor which already houses a wide array of manufacturing bays and test facilities including pressure chambers, acoustic test tanks and transducer clean room operations.

Additionally, the company continues to grow its R&D and Special Systems operations in Boca Raton, FL. Just this year a new 40 foot research vessel was added to support the Florida operations. This is the second research vessel now owned and operated by the company. Both vessels are fully outfitted with the latest sonar equipment manufactured by both divisions for testing purposes.

With the expansion and the growing demand for their industry leading products, the company is also seeking to grow its workforce. The company currently has openings for a number of experienced and talented personnel including 2 electromechanical assemblers, 3 electronic test technicians and 4 engineers.

For more information please visit: www.edgetech.com
Each year approximately 1,500 incidents and 600 deaths occur involving vehicles that have gone off the road and plummeted into the water. Therefore, the public needs to plan for these types of emergencies by (A) rehearsing the steps necessary for a successful self-rescue from a vehicle in the water, and (B) having the rescue/escape tools readily available for use during this type of emergency situation. In addition, First Responder agencies need to provide the training necessary to prepare their personnel to respond to these types of incidents, and should provide the Personal Protective Equipment and rescue tools necessary for a safe and effective response to vehicles in the water.

SAFETY

Public service campaigns should be increased in an effort to educate the public about the risks of driving through flooded highways; driving in close proximity to bodies of water during snow, rain or other slippery conditions; or driving over lakes, rivers or ponds that have frozen over. The following information should be included in these efforts:

- It only takes 6” to 2’ of water to float a vehicle off its wheels. Heed warnings about low water crossings and do not attempt to cross flooded highways.
- 8” to 12” of new, clear, hard ice is required to drive a small vehicle onto the ice. 12” to 15” of new, clear, hard ice is required to drive a medium-sized truck onto the ice.
- Wearing seat belts will increase your chances of surviving a crash into the water.

If a vehicle leaves the road and lands in deep water, the vehicle’s float time at the surface of the water may be as little as 30 seconds, or as much as 4 minutes. Factors which effect the float time include closed, sealed, and intact windows and weather seals. Because of the location of the motor in the front of the vehicle, the vehicle will
immediately assume an angled nose down position in the water.

**ESCAPE**
Because of the relatively limited time frame for self-rescue, the decision to escape the vehicle must be made immediately. However, because of the angled nose-down position in the water and the pressure exerted by the water against the doors, as well as structural damage to the vehicle as a result of the crash, it may be extremely difficult or impossible to open the driver's side and passenger doors of the vehicle in order to effect an escape. Therefore, the only avenue of escape may be through the car door windows.

Studies have shown that the electric power may stay on for as much as 10 minutes. Or, the battery can short out immediately, making the electric window switches useless. Therefore, in order to escape through the car door windows, the occupants must be able to punch out the windows. Because the door windows, as well as the rear window, are constructed of tempered glass, they will easily shatter using an appropriate rescue/escape tool, such as a life hammer device, or a spring-loaded window punch. Many of the commercially available rescue/escape tools also have an integrated seat-belt cutter/blade that provides the ability to slice away a seat belt should its release mechanism fail or jam.

The decision to escape the vehicle must be made as soon as the vehicle leaves the road and enters the water. If the occupants delay their escape from the vehicle and the vehicle begins to sink, it may not be possible to effect an escape until the water pressure has equalized inside the vehicle. Also, should the vehicle land in deep water, if the water depth is less than 14', the vehicle will usually come to rest on the bottom on all four wheels, assuming there are no large rocks or other debris on the bottom. However, water depths greater than 14' usually results in the vehicle turning turtle and landing on its roof. Needless to say, being upside down in a dark environment with water rushing in will totally disorient the occupants of the vehicle.

We advocate the escape principles of either **SOS-GO** or **PO-GO**:

**SOS-GO**
S = Stay Calm
Assess the Situation
Slow your Breathing
O = Open your Window(s) or Door(s)
S = Disengage your Seatbelt
GO = Get Out!

**PO-GO**
P = Punch (open) your Seatbelt Release
O = Open your window or door
GO = Get Out!

In order to accomplish this, these emergency procedures should be rehearsed before the emergency occurs. Use a body reference point to identify and locate the door latch, window crank or electric window switch. As an example,
the driver should practice finding the location of these by touching his knee or hip with his/her left hand and then move the hand laterally to the door. A rescue/escape tool should be immediately available for punching out the window and cutting seatbelts. This tool should be mounted on the sidewall of the driver's side compartment, attached to the key ring, or located in some other conspicuous location that can be easily accessed during an emergency. Consideration should be given to additional tools for the passenger side and rear seat compartments as well.

If there are multiple occupants, once an escape route has been opened, each occupant should hold hands in a human chain and escape from the same route. If young children are secured in car seats, based on a limited study, we found that of those car seats we evaluated, they were sufficiently buoyant to float a child on the surface of the water. Therefore, the car seat can be cut loose from the seat belt and removed from the vehicle with the child still secured in the car seat.

There is no doubt that when a vehicle leaves the roadway and plunges into the water, this would be an extremely frightening experience, especially during the winter months with cold water posing additional risks and hazards to the occupants. But, by rehearsing the emergency escape and survival procedures and having the rescue/escape tools readily available, occupants can safely and rapidly self-extricate themselves from this situation before the vehicle begins to sink.

**RESCUE**

Public Safety and Rescue personnel should be appropriately trained, protected, and equipped to effectively and safely respond to vehicles in the water. Besides the availability of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs), Wetsuits, and/or Dry-Suits, rescue personnel should have the tools readily available to punch in the car door windows or the rear window in order to rapidly extricate a victim or multiple victims from a vehicle in the water. Spring-loaded window punches or life hammer type devices with seat-belt cutters provide the rescuer with the opportunity to gain immediate access to the victims and to cut away the victim's seat belt for their immediate extrication from the vehicle.

As standard protocol, whenever a rescue agency is dispatched to respond to a vehicle in the water, the dispatch of a wrecker should be automatic in every community and emergency response system. Upon arrival of the wrecker, it can be used to assist in the stabilization of the vehicle during and after the rescue of the vehicle occupants.

**RESCUE/ESCAPE TOOLS**

We evaluated a number of rescue/escape tools. These tools are either hammer-type devices or spring-loaded window punch devices. Although both types of tools were effective in breaking door windows and rear car windows, we found that the hammer-type devices were more dependable. Each of the spring-loaded window punch devices we tested were effective in breaking the windows when they were first removed from their packaging. However, after several practice drills, the points on these devices became dull which resulted in their failure to work.
and break the windows. Therefore, we caution against using the spring-loaded window punches for any purpose other than for breaking the windows. Furthermore, using a spring-loaded window punch, without appropriate hand protection, increased the chance of suffering cuts on the hand than the use of the hammer-type device. Regardless, rescue personnel should always wear an appropriate water rescue, neoprene, or fire glove when using any type of device to shatter door windows or vehicle rear windows.

**DISPATCHER PROTOCOLS**

All emergency dispatchers should be trained in this subject and should be prepared to give self-rescue instructions to the callers prior to the arrival of Fire and Rescue personnel.

**About the Author:**
Gerald Dworkin is a professional aquatics safety and water rescue consultant for Lifesaving Resources Inc. and is responsible for aquatics safety, lifeguard, water rescue, and ice rescue training curricula and programs. He also consults as an expert in drowning and aquatic injury litigation. He is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, and has over 30 years professional experience as a Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, and Water Rescue Technician. For more information, visit [www.lifesaving.com](http://www.lifesaving.com), or e-mail Gerry at gerald@lifesaving.com.

**FOUND ON THE WEB**

**OSHA: California Dept. Didn't Address MRSA at Firehouse**


10/24/2011 ASHLEY GEBB - Appeal-Democrat, Marysville, Calif.

A complaint has been filed against the Yuba City Fire Department, alleging MRSA outbreaks and other health violations have not been addressed at a fire station.

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health notified the Fire Department on Oct. 13 that it has until Thursday to provide a response.

The complaint alleged:
---Four outbreaks of MRSA -- an antibiotic resistant staph infection -- at the Butte House Road Station in the last 16 months.
---A toilet drain in the living area plugged with fabric.
---Insulation exposed in the living room.
---The septic system backed up three to six months ago with no official cleanup.

A Yuba City firefighter, saying he feared retribution, spoke to the Appeal-Democrat on condition of anonymity. He said one of the greatest frustrations is firefighters are doing their jobs, but do not have a clean, safe station.

"We do take risks, that's our job, but in this place, people are starting to feel like the department doesn't have their backs, and people are getting sick," he said.

Firefighters at the station are frustrated by the prolonged conditions, he said. "They finished the exterior so it looks great from the outside. As people drive by it looks completed, but you go inside and it's a mess," the firefighter, who does not work at the station, said. "If we inspected a building like that, we'd shut it down."

Fire Chief Pete Daley is preparing a response to the workplace safety agency, known as Cal/OSHA. He said the Butte House Road station, also known as Station 7, is in the middle of a major remodel, and all health and safety issues are being overseen with the help of an industrial hygienist.

Daley said he was "disappointed" when the letter arrived, since Station 7 firefighters have been involved in the remodel and are frequently updated on its status. "The letter from Cal/OSHA, what it allows everyone to do is make sure we are focusing on taking care of the problem," he said. "That's the primary goal, to make sure the facility is safe and that our employees are safe."

The Fire Department inherited the Butte House Road station when it merged with the Walton Fire Department in 2001. The structure was built only as a daytime-use station, not a 24-hour live-in station, and remodeling was needed, Daley said.

The first priority was to weatherize the building, Daley said, and a $316,000 exterior remodel was completed earlier this year.

It was during the exterior remodel that interior remodel discussions began. Firefighters at the station asked to remove a living room bathroom to create more space and were allowed to make the change themselves, exposing the insulation and causing the plugged toilet drain.

It was difficult to remodel a fire station while it's in use, Daley said. Exposed walls and other issues inevitably occur, and the remodel has taken longer than usual. Six months ago, the Fire Department brought in an industrial hygienist to focus on sanitation, resulting in new safety and cleaning policies and sanitation training for all firefighters. The county Health Department was also brought in to provide additional training.

Daley stressed that MRSA -- methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus -- is common in hospitals, care homes and other locations. Its ease of contraction makes
it a risk even in public places like grocery stores. As firefighters enter private homes and provide medical aid services, it is not unexpected they would be exposed to various health issues, he said.

"We deal with a lot of sick people," Daley said. "MRSA is just one of the concerns we have in our facility and with our people. As far as safety, there is hepatitis, there is MRSA, there is the flu-influenza."

Additional improvements have been identified to improve sanitation, such as replacing carpeting with a nonporous surface, switching fabric chairs to plastic, and firefighters sanitizing their boots before entering the station.

"We are using Station 7 as a prototype as we go through and remodel other stations," Daley said. "Our No. 1 priority is taking care of our customers and the community as well as our employees."

In its current condition, the anonymous firefighter said, the station has egregious fire safety violations, including covered smoke detectors and open walls that would allow the quick spread of fire.

"Here we are, the Fire Department, and we are breaking our own rules," he said. The plans and specifications for the interior remodel went before the council Sept. 20, and the advertisement of bids was authorized with an anticipation of a November construction start. The improvements include new flooring, drywall, electrical, mechanical, painting, sound insulation, doors, appliances, cabinets, counters and plumbing.

The interior project is estimated to cost $318,000. Funding for the work has been in the city's Capital Improvement Program budget since 2009.

During the improvements, the department has saved money and create a better living situation for the firefighters by renting the house next door, Daley said.

"We are doing everything we can to deal with all the issues and all the concerns we have at Station 7," he said. "(With the) industrial hygienist to help us, I think we have taken all the precautions we can."

Mayor John Dukes had not heard about the letter Friday but after speaking with Daley, he said he trusted the Fire Department to keep its facilities and firefighters safe. The remodel of the Butte House Road station will be a model for all other stations for health and safety once it is complete.

"They are working on the issues, they were aware of these issues and had been working on them for some time," he said.

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
SPECIAL NOTICE

National Drowning Prevention
Nonprofits Seek Nominations for
Lifesaver of the Year Award

Greetings!

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. - The National Drowning Prevention Alliance and USA Swimming Foundation launched a national competition in search for the 2011 Lifesaver of the Year. Nominators should visit www.facebook.com/NationalDrowningPreventionAlliance and click the "LifeSaver of the Year" tab to upload a photo and essay about the nominee. Describe how the nominee saved someone's life or affected the lives of others in a water-related incident. Any person who serves as a lifeguard, emergency responder or who has participated in some life-saving water-related activity may be nominated.

The winning "Lifesaver of the Year" will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to be honored at the 11th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium, set for March 7-10, 2012 in San Diego, California. The prize covers hotel, airfare and conference fees. Contest submissions may be entered from October 18, through November 30, 2011. The National Drowning Prevention Alliance and USA Swimming Foundation will select ten finalists. Public voting for the award winner will begin January 4, 2012 and will remain open for one month.

Saltwater Aspiration Syndrome

You've just gotten home from a dive and you're feeling rotten. You ache all over, are so tired you can hardly hold your head up and you have a low grade fever, nausea, headache or shivering. You might even have some shortness of breath and a productive cough. You wonder if you might not have decompression symptoms.

Well, it might not be bronchitis or pneumonia from some creepie-crawlies in your regulator, but most likely salt water in your lungs that's to blame. First described by Dr.Carl Edmonds, this flu-like condition and short-term respiratory distress in divers occurs when even small amounts of micronized saltwater mist is inhaled into the lungs. Although not well-recognized, it's called saltwater aspiration syndrome and it can be avoided by taking several actions.

Treatment

http://www.scruba-doc.com

Diving Medicine Online

Ernest Campbell, MD, FACS

Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non-medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist
Interpolation of management would be similar to that given mildly affected cases of near-drowning. Most individuals are not this severely affected and never seek medical care. Others continue with severe cough and bronchospasm and require assistance. Patients with minimal symptoms (eg, coughing) and normal oxygen saturation should be observed for 24 hours; nearly all recover spontaneously within a few hours. In saltwater drownings and saltwater "wet" near-drownings (those that involve aspiration), the hypertonicity of the aspirated fluid draws intravascular fluid into the already fluid-filled alveoli, resulting in ventilation-perfusion abnormalities and intrapulmonary shunting. Intravascular hypovolemia, hemoconcentration, and electrolyte abnormalities can result, although this is not usually seen clinically in near-drowning survivors because they rarely aspirate enough water to produce these effects. It is doubtful that there is enough volume aspirated through a regulator to cause significant electrolyte abnormalities.

Divers who are alert but in respiratory distress require transfer to an intensive care setting for chest roentgenography, oxygen administration, and monitoring of oxygen saturation, arterial blood gases, urinary output, and electrolytes.

The initial chest film may be normal despite marked cough or respiratory distress. Since water ingestion and asphyxia can damage the alveolar capillary membrane, pulmonary edema can occur hours later as ARDS (Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome). Frequent auscultation and continuous monitoring of oxygen saturation can detect this delayed complication.

Bronchospasm can be treated with inhaled beta agonists (bronchial dilators). In the rare person who proceeds to ARDS, continuous positive airway pressure, with or without mechanical ventilation, may be needed to maintain adequate PO2 and, accompanied by ventilation, is the single most effective treatment for hypoxemia.

Saltwater is hypertonic and can cause a shift of fluid from the circulation into the lung and pleural space, whereas freshwater is hypotonic to serum and is rapidly absorbed and redistributed. This might account for the productive cough associated with this syndrome and on a chronic basis could cause hemoconcentration, a known risk for decompression accidents. Ingestion of grossly contaminated water can cause pneumonia and lung abscess; fortunately these complications are rare.

**Prevention**

*It may be your regulator.* Rodale’s ScubaLab has tested some 185 models of regulators and has found a wide variation in the dryness of the equipment. They found that in general, all regulators will have a more difficult time staying dry when you are in odd positions (upside down, on your back, etc.) or just after you have replaced the regulator in your mouth, but top performers keep this to a minimum.

*Get your regulator serviced on a regular basis.* Some regulators breathe wetter due to the non-return exhaust valves not seating as well as they should. Proper maintenance can help prevent this. Rodale’s offers this simple test: With no air pressure to the regulator and the first-stage dust cap firmly in place, exhale forcefully through the second stage and then inhale forcefully. You
should get no air on the inhale. If your regulator doesn't pass the test, have it serviced before diving.

**Keep your reg in your mouth as much as possible.** The best way to keep your regulator breathing dry is to keep water out of the second stage. Use your power inflator, not your oral inflator, to minimize the number of times you remove your second stage from your mouth. Enter and exit the water with your reg in your mouth and use your regulator on the surface during rough water conditions. Do not buddy breathe to share air, but use an alternate air source.

**Always exhale before you inhale on a regulator.** If you are clearing a regulator in the water, take your first breath cautiously. If any water remains in the second stage, tilt your head so the exhaust is at the lowest point, helping to drain the rest of the water out. The best method for clearing a regulator: put the second stage in your mouth, tilt your head so the exhaust is at the lowest point, then exhale while gently pushing the purge button.

**Keep your mouth shut.** Even if your regulator is working properly, you will inhale a saltwater mist if you do not keep your mouth firmly sealed around the mouthpiece.


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**If you have an event to share, send the information to:** PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

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**EVENTS**

**DUI RISK MANAGEMENT 2011 TRAINING PROGRAM**

Nov 18 Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

**A TO Z GRANTWRITING SEMINAR**

November 5 & 19 and December 10, 2011 (Saturdays)

4-Day Seminar and Non Profit Development Certificate Program at Loyola Marymount University

For Details, Fees, and Registration at 310 338-1971

**SWAT Counter Terrorism Operations** - November 15-18, 2011 - Yakima, WA

**Post Blast Investigation**

November 14 2011 To November 15 2011

Sponsor: Southeast Precision Tactics, L.L.C.

**Description:** This class is designed for 1st responders, investigators, forensic personnel, or anyone who may be assigned to help in a Post Blast Investigation. The class will briefly cover types of explosives, types of delivery systems used in bombings and the components used in the building of devices. Once the students have completed the classroom portion, they will be taken to an
actual blast scene and taught how to recover evidence, how to maintain a chain of custody, identify the components used, and be able to formulate a hypothesis of what the actual bomb was and how it functioned.

**Location:** Knoxville, TN  
**Address:** P.O. Box 991  
**City:** Powell  
**State:** TN  
**Zip:** 37849  
**Country:** U.S.A.

**Contact:** Alex Slate  
**Email:** bombtech1999@yahoo.com

**Composite Drawing for Law Enforcement**  
**November 14 2011 To November 18 2011**

**Sponsor:** Santa Clara County S.O.

**Description:** Award-winning composite art training. No art background or training required. Contact Carrie for more information. California POST approved Plan IV.

**Location:** Santa Clara County Police Training City: Morgan Hill  
**State:** CA  
**Country:** USA

**Contact:** Carrie Parks  
**Phone:** 208 682-4564

**Digital Photography for Law Enforcement**  
**11/30/2011 – 12/02/2011**

**Sponsor:** Institute of Police Technology Management

**Description:** This course will teach you how to properly use your agency’s digital camera. Not only will you learn how to document both the crime scene and specific evidence, but you will also be shown how to process and properly archive the resulting computer images for courtroom purposes. You will be presented with the latest information on commercially available digital processing systems and the relationship of these systems to law enforcement. The benefits and possible limitations of digital capture for different types of evidence will be explored. Court proven methods for properly recording the scene and archiving the images correctly will be emphasized. The legal concerns of digital imaging and the chain of custody procedures that are in place in the United States today will also be addressed. In addition to lectures and demonstrations, you will be required to use your digital camera for “hands-on” practical exercises.

**Topics include:**  
- Digital capture systems  
- Familiarization with departmentally issued cameras  
- Basics of scene documentation  
- Processing and printing of digital images  
- Legal issues related to digital imaging  
- Digital image archiving as related to chain of custody  

**Notes:** On the second day, class will run into evening hours. Please bring your agency’s digital camera as well as an external flash unit, synch cord for flash to camera connection, card reader and a tripod with you. A circular polarizing filter is strongly recommended. Audience: Patrol officers, newly assigned and seasoned detectives, investigations supervisors, crime scene technicians, medical examiner and coroner investigators, military investigative personnel, and those that are either currently using or in the process of incorporating digital photography into their agency’s daily operations

**Course length:** 40 hours  
**Location:** IPTM  
**Address:** City: Jacksonville  
**State:** FL  
**Zip:** 32224

**Contact:** IPTM  
**Phone:** 904-620-4786  
**Email:** info@iptm.org
Advanced Techniques for Unresolved Death Investigations
December 12 2011 To December 16 2011

Sponsor: Institute of Police Technology

Description: This course will provide you with innovative techniques that could lead to the resolution of unresolved death cases. You will take part in an in-depth study of the differential diagnosis of death (D.D.D.), with heavy emphasis on the latest scientific techniques available to the homicide investigator. Each student is encouraged to bring one uncleared death case for presentation to fellow students and evaluation by a panel of experts.

Location: St Petersburg College Address: City: St Petersburg State: FL Zip: 33711
Contact: IPTM Phone: 904-620-4786 Email: info@iptm.org

SHA 2012 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology
http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2012.cfm
Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore, Maryland
January 4-8, 2012

Underwater Intervention
http://www.underwaterintervention.com/
Underwater Intervention 2012. Ernest N. Morial

Contact: Vince Capone Tel: (302) 352-1800
Email: Vince@blacklaserlearning.com
Website: www.blacklaserlearning.com

Black Laser Learning announces live 2-day side sonar training seminar for law enforcement personnel in Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia, January 11-12, 2012

Laser Learning®, known worldwide for its in-depth sonar technology expertise and innovative training programs today announced registration is open for their January 2012 live 2-day side scan sonar training seminar for law enforcement personnel.

The event is open to law enforcement and marine rescue personnel, is being organized in cooperation with the Lowndes County Sherriff’s office, and will be held at Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia, January 11-12.

Surf Expo, Orlando, FL, USA
Jan 14 thru Jan 16
40-Hour Introduction to the Science of Fingerprints
January 23 2012 To January 27 2012

Sponsor: SIRCHIE Fingerprint Laboratories
Description: The science of fingerprint identification is based on the uniqueness and permanence of friction ridge structures. Therefore, the ability of the technician to accurately classify and identify fingerprint patterns is essential. In this course, the student will learn the fundamental techniques of fingerprint pattern interpretation and how this information is used to accurately classify, compare, and identify fingerprints.

The ACE-V methodology of comparing and identifying fingerprints is discussed as it relates to the scientific method. This course is taught with numerous methods of classroom instruction combining lectures with hands-on-assignments, questions and answers, reinforcing quizzes and practical exercises. The fingerprint comparison exercises are inked fingerprints and not latent prints. This is NOT a latent print comparison class. Fingerprint identification science remains the backbone of law enforcement criminal record and case identification. This training is vital for any individual who wishes to pursue a career as a fingerprint examiner. Please visit www.sirchie.com for more information.

Location: SIRCHIE Address: 100 Hunter Place City: Youngsville State: NC Zip: 27596 Country: USA
Contact: Chrissy Hunter or Mary Lou Kinton Phone: 1-800-356-7311 Email: training@sirchie.com

International Conference on Hyperbaric Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa
Mar 16 thru Mar 19

2012 Joint Undersea Warfare Technology Spring Conference
http://www.ndia.org/meetings/2260/Pages/default.aspx
Event Date 3/19/2012 to 3/22/2012
Event Location Admiral Kidd Conference Center (San Diego, CA)
Event Contact Ms. Kimberly Williams at kwilliams@ndia.org

EDAM (Emergency Diving Accident Management) Course, Avalon, Catalina Island, CA, USA
Mar 15 thru Mar 20

Beneath The Sea 2011, Secaucus, NJ, USA
Mar 25 thru Mar 27

Catalina Chamber Day/Evening 2011, CA, USA
May 4

25th Annual Scuba Show, Long Beach, CA, USA
May 5 thru May 6

11th European Conference on Underwater Acoustics
http://www.ecua2012.com/
The 11th European Conference on Underwater Acoustics (ECUA) will be held in Edinburgh between the 2nd and 6th July, 2012.
1) PSD divers are excluded from OSHA hazmat rules.
   a. True
   b. False

2) If hazards exceed your team’s equipment, training or personnel, wait for additional resources.
   a. True
   b. False

3) The three major categories of hazards are:
   a. Biological
   b. Chemical
   c. Radiation
   d. Medical waste

4) Currently there are no treatments to prevent or cure E-Coli infections.
   a. True
   b. False

5) Toxins are poisonous substances produced by plants, animals and pathogenic bacteria that interfere with cell and tissue functions.
   a. True
   b. False

6) Which of the following are viruses that may be encountered during diving operations.
   a. Hepatitis A
   b. Hepatitis B
   c. Tetanus
   d. HIV
   e. All of the above

7) Flu like condition can be caused by Salt Water Aspirations.
   a. True
   b. False

8) If your risk assessment determines the potential for your team to dive in a contaminated environment, your team members should receive:
   b. Approval from county officials
   c. Obtain a permit for diving
   d. All of the above

9) A vehicle may be swept off a flooded road with as little as _____ inches of water.
   a. 26
   b. 14
   c. 9
   d. 6

10) __________ of new clear hard ice is required to drive a medium-sized truck onto ice.
11) Front motor vehicles landing in water that is deeper than the vehicle is long may result in the vehicle ending ___________.
   a. On its wheels
   b. On its side
   c. On its roof
   d. It will float due to buoyancy

12) Rescue tools for breaking a window are of several types. The best tool is ________.
   a. Spring loaded punch
   b. Ice pick awl
   c. Large rock
   d. Hammer type device

Team Discussion:

1. Evaluate your region’s risks of water contamination including biological hazards, toxic chemicals and radiation.

2. Review your team’s policy/guideline on water contamination.

3. Diving in contaminated waters is a reality for public safety divers. There is no substitute for an appropriate level of training, certifications, qualifications, preparation and equipment when it comes to diving in contaminated waters. Make sure your team is prepared. As a team, discuss your methodology and evaluate your available equipment for recovering a decomposed body, an overturned vehicle leaking gasoline and an electric golf cart from a course lake.

4. As part of your operational standards, establish decontamination zones and strict procedures to ensure the safety of the divers and the rest of the team. Set up a decontamination dive scenario and test or practice your techniques. Take the time and opportunity to evaluate techniques, tools and equipment.

PSD / ERD Instructors - If you would like to help with our Continuing Education program, let us know. We always welcome and can use the extra help. Drop us an email at: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

Important Numbers:

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

DAN Medical Information Line at 1-919-684-2948

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

**In Next Month’s Issue:**

**Diving in Contaminated Waters**
By the Divers Alert Network

PSDiver Monthly is a free subscriber E-Zine distributed by Press Release notice and website download. We have a world wide distribution and a verified email subscriber list of over 13,000.

PSDiver Monthly is the magazine for PSDiver and is edited and published by Mark Phillips

Associate Editors:
Lynn Wright
Dominique Evans-Bye

Continuing Education Editor: Chuck Elgin

For advertising and sponsor rates, please email: psdivermonthly@aol.com

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PSDiver Monthly is not bound by borders and while our largest subscriber base is in North America, we have a world wide subscriber base.

**PSDM 89 CE Answers**

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