Drowning Doesn’t Look Like Drowning
by Mario Vittone

Diving in Contaminated Waters
Divers Alert Network

Diving Medicine:
Diabetes and Diving

NEWS & EVENTS
CONTINUING ED.
Greetings,

As another year draws to a close, it is customary to look back and reflect on what went right, what went wrong and how improvements can be implemented through lessons learned. This philosophy is applied throughout both our personal and professional lives.

As I assess this past year. I am very happy with PSDiver Monthly and the work we put out. Our success is dependent on our readers, therefore, I feel obligated to deliver a magazine that is useful, entertaining and thought provoking to subscribers. My objective is to open lines of communication within the public safety diver community with the goal of facilitating improvements in safety and effectiveness for all teams. Using the online magazine and associated discussion forum gives us the unique ability to learn from each other and industry vendors in order to reach that goal.

I have received numerous emails and phone calls this year, more than any previous year, offering support, encouragement and words of appreciation for the efforts my team and I put forth in PSDiver Monthly. Thank you.

This next year I hope to make some changes. I want to start focusing our attention towards building and strengthening our dive teams. We always complain about the lack of standards, our small or nonexistent budgets, old equipment, contaminated water diving and the need for better equipment for the job. I think we need to start working on new avenues of thought regarding where we sit in the world of public safety.

I would like to see us become more involved with those things that could make our jobs safer like sonar and ROV technologies. I would like to start a column devoted to K9 Search and Rescue. Over the years we have had articles contributed that discussed using geographic information systems for documenting a search area. This technology can be expensive to implement in a department. Are there teams out there using free versions of GIS for mapping and analysis, like Google Earth or ArcGIS Explorer?

I would like our sponsors to contribute educational articles that illustrate how their products are used in SAR to increase the safety and efficiency of operations.

I would like to know what is important to you. Is there an area we should investigate and highlight in this publication that would be helpful to your team? Do you have an area of expertise that you could share with us?

I have an extraordinary team that helps me with PSDiver Monthly. But like me, they are occasions where they need help or need someone else to take up the slack for them when they are overloaded with their own work. If you would like to join our editorial team, send me an email and we will talk.

Do you have a trusted vendor that other teams could benefit from? If so, let them know the opportunity to
reach their target audience here at PSDiver Monthly. I know of no other advertising outlet that gives a direct line of interactive communication with a customer base than what we provide between the ezine and discussion forum.

I’m always looking to draw some new advertisers / sponsors to the magazine. I met Ron Waxman at DEMA and had a light bulb moment. Here is a company who supplies medical emergency products to first responders. That is us! Ron and Marion Waxman have joined us and this month we welcome your newest sponsor, CPR-Depot.

It is my hope that as you reflect back on 2011, you take the time to share something that you have learned that could benefit others. Share with us a post in the forum, an email to the ezine or an article to publish. Your contributions can help improve the safety and effectiveness of SAR operations, a goal we can achieve together.

From our families to yours,
Happy Holidays.

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
Drowning Doesn’t Look Like Drowning
by Mario Vittone

The new captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the couple swimming between their anchored sportfisher and the beach. “I think he thinks you’re drowning,” the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing, neck-deep on the sand bar. “We’re fine, what is he doing?” she asked, a little annoyed. “We’re fine!” the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard.
“Move!” he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not ten feet away, their nine-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, “Daddy!”

How did this captain know – from fifty feet away – what the father couldn’t recognize from just ten? Drowning is not the violent, splashing, call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, had learned what drowning looks like by watching television. If you spend time on or near the water (hint: that’s all of us) then you should make sure that you and your crew knows what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful, “Daddy,” she hadn’t made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn’t surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing, and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for, is rarely seen in real life.

The Instinctive Drowning Response – so named by Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D., is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. And it does not look like most people expect.

There is very little splashing, no waving, and no yelling or calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic from the surface drowning can be, consider this: It is the number two cause of accidental death in children, age 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents) – of the approximately 750 children who will drown next year, about 375 of them will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult.

In ten percent of those drownings, the adult will actually watch them do it, having no idea it is happening (source: CDC). Drowning does not look like drowning – Dr. Pia, in an article in the Coast Guard’s On Scene Magazine, described the instinctive drowning response like this:

1. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled, before speech occurs.

2. Drowning people’s mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning
people’s mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.

3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water’s surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water, permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.

4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.

5. From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response people’s bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs. (Source: On Scene Magazine: Fall 2006 (page 14))

This doesn’t mean that a person that is yelling for help and thrashing isn’t in real trouble – they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn’t last long – but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, throw rings, etc.

Look for these other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

- Head low in the water, mouth at water level
- Head tilted back with mouth open
- Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
- Eyes closed
- Hair over forehead or eyes
- Not using legs – Vertical
- Hyperventilating or gasping
- Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
- Trying to roll over on the back
- Appear to be climbing an invisible ladder.

So if a crew member falls overboard and everything looks OK – don’t be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don’t look like they’re drowning. They may just look like they are treading water and looking up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask them, “Are you alright?” If they can answer at all – they probably are.

If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them.

And parents – children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, you get to them and find out why.

Click here to see a video of the 
Instinctive Drowning Response
Diving in Contaminated Waters
Divers Alert Network

Rescue and recovery operations may require public safety divers to dive in polluted or contaminated waters. When it comes to recovery operations, greater time and care may be permitted for enhanced safety measures. Rescue operations may require a quicker response time. Either way, standard operating procedures should be in place for divers, and divers should be equipped with the proper gear, training from an appropriate PSD training agency, knowledge and preventative measures to mitigate health risks.

The initial step in this process is an evaluation of your region’s risks of water contamination including biological hazards, toxic chemicals and radiation. Each area varies, and it is important to take an assessment of your area to determine what potential pollutants are of concern. As part of the evaluation process, consider different types of missions performed in your potential diving environments. Different missions in the same environment may pose different sets of hazards. For instance, searching through sediment for evidence may stir up pollutants in the sediment and expose the diver to greater hazard, whereas recovery operations present a completely different set of potential challenges. If there is any doubt, the water should be tested before initiating dive operations.

If there are known hazards with particular sources, such as industrial wastes, try to limit operations to upstream to avoid contamination. As this may not always be an option, in areas with known industrial operations, you may want to seek out sediment testing for biological and chemical contaminants to help in achieving a complete risk assessment. Heavy rainfall, stirring up sediments or the introduction of hazardous materials may also influence the levels of contaminants in the diving environment and should always be considered prior to commencing operations.

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. Adhere to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Emergency and Remedial Response’s four designsations of personal protective equipment from hazardous substances to determine the appropriate levels of topside protection.

Safety Standards: Equip Yourself
Work with local agencies and equipment manufacturers to determine the appropriate safety gear to protect you and your team from potential local hazards. Take into consideration routes of exposure (inhalation, skin absorption, etc.), as well as
the site’s particular environmental conditions (sharp edges, cold temperatures, swift waters). These resources can also advise you on maintenance and proper decontamination processes. It is important to make sure the equipment you select can withstand exposure to the potential contaminants.

For the safety of your team, ensure your operations are in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. For guidelines on safety standards refer to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents.

If safety equipment is compromised in any way, diving operations should be safely ended. If the hazards exceed your team’s equipment, training or personnel, wait for additional resources. It is essential to recognize when it is necessary to call a mission for the safety of the team. No single piece of equipment can ensure absolute protection, there is always some level of risk when diving in contaminated waters, and it is your job to minimize it.

When diving in contaminated waters, drysuits are an equipment essential. Full face masks or diving helmets equipped with communicators also help facilitate safer operations, enabling communication among the team as well as adding another barrier between the diver and contaminants. Public safety dive teams should also be trained and equipped to provide surface supplied air diving operations.

Once you’ve taken all the steps to protect the divers and the support team with evaluation and equipment; complete the process with a thorough decontamination of the diver’s equipment. Establish and adhere to decontamination procedures on site. This process needs to be customized to meet the hazards of the site. Finally, make sure every diver on your team is properly trained on how to use all equipment required for diving in contaminated waters.

Potential Hazards
Assessing the risks of your potential diving environments will help you to plan for and equip yourself with the materials and training you need to manage them effectively. The three major categories of hazards are biological, chemical and radiation and each has its own potential hazards.

Biological Hazards
There are several varieties of biological hazards, including bacteria, viruses, protozoa and toxins. These may be particularly concentrated in sediments and often occur in waterways as a result of runoff originating from storm drains, agricultural operations, sewage, industrial or hazardous wastes or even from aquatic organisms.
Bacteria are microscopic single-celled organisms that can live outside of the human body. Some live inside the human body, including in the intestines, and help maintain bodily functions. Many are harmless, but certain types including some found in aquatic environments, can make an individual ill. Many can be controlled with antibiotics or prevented with vaccines; make sure your team is up to date with all available immunizations. The following are a few bacteria that may be encountered:

- **E.coli**: (Currently, there are no treatments to cure or prevent this infection.)
- Cholera*
- Anthrax
- Salmonella
- Typhoid

Viruses are even smaller than bacteria and are not capable of independent life; they are parasitic in nature and require a host for survival. They are comprised of genetic material and some encapsulating proteins. When they are introduced to a living cell, they essentially hijack it; viruses inject their nucleoprotein into the cell and take control of the cell’s metabolic processes to reproduce until the cell bursts, releasing the viruses to continue their invasion of other cells. Viruses can be difficult to treat as many are not responsive to common pharmaceutical remedies. Some can be prevented with immunizations, such as Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B, so again, make sure your team is up to date. Viruses may be encountered during recovery operations involving human remains, evidence recovery or during routine operations in which a diver encounters sharp metal objects. The following are some that may be encountered during diving operations:

- Hepatitis A*
- Hepatitis B*
- Tetanus*
- HIV

Protozoans are microscopic single cellular organisms, which can be pathogenic. Some potentially harmful protozoa exist in or near the marine environment including:

- **Giardia lamblia**
- Primary amoebic encephalitis (extremely rare)

Toxins are poisonous substances produced by plants, animals and pathogenic bacteria that interfere with cell and tissue functions. Some examples include harmful algal blooms, such as red tide and *Pfiesteria*.

**Chemical Hazards**

Industrial wastes, sewage, agricultural runoff, fuels and oils are just some of the potential sources for chemical
contaminants. Some can be managed with care and equipment, but some chemicals put divers at an unacceptable risk. Certain chemicals can be very hazardous such as those that contain heavy metals, carcinogens, oxidants or pesticides. It is important to familiarize yourself with the chemical hazards in your area, identify the risks they pose and the risk management they require.

**Radioactive Hazards**
Radioactive hazards are most often connected to an industrial accident or spill and should be handled only by experienced personnel trained to work with such hazards.

**Resources for You**
Visual inspection is not enough; contaminated waters may not always appear to be so. Contact the EPA, the Center for Disease Control and local water quality control agencies to identify the local water hazards.

For guidelines on hazards and exposure suits, read the DUI manual on “Exposure Protection for Public Safety Divers,” the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s handbook and the Association of Diving Contractors’ website, which details standard operating procedures for dealing with water contamination on the job. For information on extensive rescue diving training programs and safety standards visit Dive Rescue International’s website.

If your risk assessment determines the potential for your team to dive in a contaminated environment, your team members should receive OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard training. And remember, if you have any questions or need a referral call the DAN Medical Information Line at +1-919-684-2948 or contact DAN via email.

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.

*Diseases with preventative vaccines*

Divers Alert Network (DAN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the safety and health of scuba divers. DAN operates a 24-hour emergency hotline (+1-919-684-9111) to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance for diving or nondiving incidents.
The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) District 12 members chose Cricket Creek in Addison for their diver drills training. Members of the Addison, Oak Brook, Winfield and Glen Ellyn Fire Departments brought specialized diving gear to Addison to practice search and retrieval skills underwater. Fire Department divers are often needed when an item is submerged under water and must be brought to the surface. The skills of the divers allow law enforcement to locate victims, weapons and other items submerged or on the bottom of a water system. Safety was prominent throughout the drill as four divers entered the water to locate items placed on the bottom by Addison Fire Department Lieutenant - Dave Dinelli.

Lieutenant Dinelli hosted the drill on behalf of the MABAS District 12 group of Fire Departments that include nineteen communities in DuPage County. The specialized diver teams provide the skills to recover items in lakes, ponds, streams and rivers throughout the area. Equipped with underwater sonar, acoustic communications equipment and custom designed diver’s equipment the divers discussed how to safely retrieve items submerged under water. In many communities, Fire Department divers are the only persons trained in locating and collecting objects in water.

Before any diver entered the Cricket Creek ponds, several safety measures were put in place. Each diver wore a dry suit and methodically assembled the weights and monitoring gear for a safe dive. The weights allow the divers to more easily submerge under water and the monitoring gear helps keep track of their air supply, their direction when swimming in murky waters and communications with a dive team on the shore.
The divers had built into their dive masks special underwater acoustic microphones and speakers so they could use the water itself as a medium to send and receive sound of voices. The divers were also tethered with a rope to a person on the shore. The person on shore was responsible for the status of the diver they were linked to. A preset coded system of commands allows them to communicate with the shoreline by tugging on the rope a preset number of times.

During the drill, one diver was submerged while another diver ready to dive stood at the edge of the water. On a moments notice the second diver could enter the water should the first diver become incapable of coming to the surface. Another level of safety was the presence of two paramedics within 15 feet of the waters edge. The paramedics were on standby should any diver need medical assistance.

The divers practiced how to search the shoreline underwater, evidence collections procedures, sonar operations and a Jack Stay search method. Jack Stay searches involve a patterned search underwater using two divers and a rope. Divers swim with one hand on the rope in opposite directions or together in parallel. When they reach the ends of the rope, they move the rope several feet and search an adjacent line along the bottom.

Divers also practiced the use of a pelican float. The pelican float is a metal weight connected by a rope to a bright yellow plastic float. This device is used sometimes to signal the location of a diver in distress, however the pelican float in this drill was used to mark the location of an object found underwater. By using a surveyor like GPS device called the “total system” an exact location of where an item is found can be recorded easily. Then the item is collected in a container that also collects the water it was in before being brought to the surface and turned over to law enforcement.

Fire department divers may be called upon to locate bodies, weapons used in a crime, items of evidence thrown into a water system or any number of unique situations. Their training and practice drills help experienced divers share the knowledge they have learned with others in many communities in our area. A special program is being produced from this dive training drill and will be played on local cable television.
and streamed on the Internet in July. Check the web site www.tvvpstyle.com for more information.

Barra ready to dive into work
http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/barra-ready-to-dive-into-work-1.1130557?68621
21 Oct 2011 By MATTY SUTTON

HE is believed to be the only dog in Scotland trained to recover human remains from under water. And now Barra is ready to start work on the River Clyde – or wherever he is needed.

The 19-month-old Springer Spaniel belongs to Iain Marshall, 44, from Dumbarton, who read about using dogs to find missing people on the sea bed in a magazine.

The station officer at Helensburgh Coastguard and a boatman on the Clyde for Glasgow City Council, decided – on his own – to research the idea then traveled to Wales to get Barra and train him.

He said: “A lot of things happen on the river and unfortunately people go missing, they sink to the bottom and it can take weeks if not months for these people to refloat.

“I was reading an article in a magazine about these dogs that can locate bodies under the water and I thought this would be ideal for the river because it could bring closure to peoples’ families.”

He contacted Nick Swindells, from UK Search Dog, who agreed to train both Iain and Barra on a year-long course at the International Rescue Training Centre in Wales.

Barra locates bodies by smelling gases they release.

Iain Marshall and Barra are ready for the call wherever they are needed
It cost £5000 to train the pup and another £3000 to buy the boat for them to go out on the water. And Iain, who lives with his wife Alison and daughter Savannah, 7, funded everything himself.

He said his family was supportive. He said: “I have never had a dog in my life. “A lot of people were saying this is a pie in the sky idea, you’ll never get it trained or certified and the more I heard people being negative and the more obstacles I came across, it made me more determined to complete the task.”

Barra lives with the family, and Iain has just got his sister, 17-week-old Eriskay, who he plans to train as well.

Iain says he hopes Barra will speed up recovery by narrowing the area that police divers, who currently search for remains, have to cover. He said: “For divers from the police it is dangerous – the dog could cut down the search area and locate where a victim possibly is and then it could be down to the underwater unit. “We would just put a marker down.”

Barra has already helped find a missing person.

Iain said: “Before we were qualified we were going down the river and there was a person missing for approximately eight weeks, and Barra was showing interest to an area down the river. “On further investigation they recovered the body.” Iain will offer Barra’s services to police and any other group searching for submerged bodies.

**Police divers search Lake Simcoe for clues to 2007 murder**
Oct 25 2011 Zoe McKnight Staff Reporter

Police officers were hunting in Lake Simcoe on Tuesday for clues about Alexandra Flanagan’s 2007 murder.

A command post was set up and six Ontario Provincial Police divers began searching Kempenfelt Bay as part of the homicide investigation, Barrie Police Const. Toni Dufour confirmed.

Police won’t discuss the results of the search, or what they’re looking for, Dufour said. They also remain tight-lipped as to what brought officials to the underwater site. However, police would say they are not looking for human remains.

Flanagan, 33, was last seen in July 2007. Her decomposed body, including a skull and several bones, was found spread across Barrie, in both a wooded area in the south end of Barrie...
in October 2007 and in February 2008, near the shore of Kempenfelt Bay.

Last week, Innisfil man Andrew Keene was charged with first-degree murder. With files from the Canadian Press

**Canal lock murder trial sees grisly video**


Oct 25, 2011  The Canadian Press

Ontario jurors saw for themselves Tuesday how the bodies of three teenage sisters and another family member looked suspended in water in a car at the bottom of a canal.

But the girls' mother, one of the people accused of killing them, asked to leave the courtroom so she didn't have to see the eerie video shot by a police diver.

Sisters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and 13-year-old Geeti Shafia were discovered with their polygamist father's first wife, Rona Amir Mohammad, 50, in a car on June 30, 2009, in the Rideau Canal near Kingston, Ont.

The girls' mother, Tooba Mohammad Yahya, 41, their father, Mohammad Shafia, 58, and their older brother, Hamed Mohammad Shafia, 20, have each pleaded not guilty to four counts of first-degree murder.

The Crown alleges the Montreal family thought their daughters betrayed them by having boyfriends, so they killed them and staged the scene to look like an accident.

**Underwater video shows submerged victims**

The 14-minute underwater video shot by provincial police Const. Glenn Newell was uneventful for the first 10 minutes, but when he pans up past the door panel, a pair of legs can be seen in the first in a series of grisly discoveries.

The jury could then see the head of one of the victims, facing down and with hair obscuring her face. Blankets, a
purse, a yellow bag, a torso and the hand of a victim are seen in the passenger side window on the driver's side.

In the backseat are Rona Amir Mohammad and Sahar, who court has heard was "given" to Mohammad by Yahya to raise as her own, because Mohammad couldn't have children. The two were especially close, court has heard. Their bodies were found sitting side by side, their heads touching.

Newell testified on Monday that although one car window was open, it appeared that none of the victims had tried to get out of the vehicle. "I would think it would make it very simple for somebody, who could get to that window, to get out of that window," he said.

The cause of death for all four victims was drowning, but it isn't possible to say for certain that they drowned in the canal where they were found, the Crown has said. Three of them had bruising on the top of their heads.

The Crown theory of the car's path is that it would have had to travel past a locked gate, over a concrete curb and a rocky outcrop and then make two U-turns to end up in the lock of the canal.

**Motel manager testifies about room check-in**

The family had been on their way home from a trip to Niagara Falls, Ont., when the car wound up in the canal.

A Kingston motel manager testified Tuesday that when Shafia and Hamed checked in to two rooms for the family that night, at first Shafia said there would be six guests. There were 10 people on the family trip.

Underwater Drones Giving More Eyes to Police Harbor Unit as Searches Grow

Click Photo to go to story

The New York Police Department's Harbor Unit demonstrating one of its remote-operated vehicles in the Gowanus Canal.
An expert will be called later to testify about so-called honour killings and how in extreme cases, killing can be seen in some cultures as a way to restore honour to a family.

Disobedience by a female member of the family can cause shame and taint family honour, the expert is expected to testify.

The family immigrated to Canada in 2007. They left their home country of Afghanistan in 1992 and lived for a number of years in Pakistan, Australia and Dubai before coming to North America.

The trial is expected to last up to 10 weeks.

**Police divers search Tuesday under Harbor Bridge after abandoned vehicle found at top of bridge**


November 1, 2011 By Steven Alford

**CORPUS CHRISTI, TX** — Corpus Christi police spent much of Tuesday searching the waters around the Harbor Bridge for a man after a vehicle was found abandoned at the top of the bridge.

Officers found the vehicle about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, said Senior Officer Jose Olivares, of the Corpus Christi Police Department.

The man’s name and or vehicle information has not been released by police.

The department’s dive team began looking in the water about 10:45 a.m. and continued with help from Port of Corpus Christi police into the evening before suspending the search. “It’s a very difficult search,” Olivares said. “It’s about 60 feet deep underneath the bridge and very murky.”

Police tried to contact the vehicle’s owner Tuesday, but did not hear from him, Olivares said. The vehicle was taken to the city’s impound lot and the search will resume Wednesday.

**Police find body Monday near Harbor Bridge believed to be missing Corpus Christi man**


November 7, 2011 By Steven Alford

**CORPUS CHRISTI** — Police divers found a body Monday near the Harbor Bridge, believed to be a man who left his vehicle there last week. Members of the police department’s dive team searched the 60-foot-deep water under the bridge last week after an abandoned vehicle
was found about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday at the top of the bridge.

They were assisted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Port of Corpus Christi police department.

The search resumed Monday morning as officers in boats combed the surrounding bay waters, a police spokesman said.

Authorities would not release details of where the body was found. The body was identified as a 25-year-old missing Corpus Christi man, according to the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office. The man's name is being withheld while police investigate the death as a suicide, a police spokesman said.

A cause of death ruling has not been given by the medical examiner's office.

Police offered few details of the discovery, which a police spokesman said is standard protocol in the event of a suicide investigation.

Cop divers: A breed apart, a breed below
November 9, 2011 SCUBA SCOOP/latest dive stories

It's one of the least popular types of specialized police work: dead body retrievers.

Of the 69,200 cops in Canada, only 110 are police divers.

This week more than half of them showed up at a frozen quarry near Ottawa to train in far more favourable conditions than many of them are used to.

Ottawa rookie cop Alana Fong sits on a towel-topped, waterproof kit case with her feet propped up on a small one. Wrapped in blankets she waits in a tent for colleague Walt Leshman to surface.

The burly Newfoundlander is far more experienced; he's been a police diver for four years.

Fong is about to make her second-ever ice dive.

In fact, she's the only female
police diver in Ontario and one of only a handful in Canada.

She was fast-tracked into the unit - diving has always been something that interested her - having only been hired by Ottawa Police in May.

That's because they needed her. "There's not a lot of people that want to do this job," says Const. Brent MacIntyre, of the Ottawa Police dive, marine and trails unit. "It takes a certain type of police officer to want to go underwater and recover human remains, so there's not a lot of pickings when we're going out to recruit new officers."

Fong's first ice dive, completed Tuesday in the quarry, was an experience she'll never forget. "It was incredible, actually. It was quite different than diving in the summer," she says. "Here we have a lot of visibility, when you look up at the surface you can see so many colours."

MacIntyre can speak from experience about the contrast between the visibility in a quarry and what police divers are up against diving in places like the Ottawa River. "It's like diving in tea," he says. "You can't see anything."

The quarry near Wakefield, Que., offers 128 feet of depth and numerous underwater objects to dive to. The divers also conducted drills and exercises with dummies.

The busiest season of the year for police divers is just around the corner - spring thaw. Thanks to Kathy Dowsett

**Father died trying to save his drowning daughter at beauty spot where vandals had stolen lifebuoy**


11th November 2011 By Leon Watson

A father jumped into a swirling river to save his teenage daughter and drowned after vandals had stolen vital lifesaving equipment, an inquest heard today.
The theft was described by a coroner as 'unforgivable' after he heard how a lifebuoy could have saved 59-year-old Michael Payne.

The father leapt into action without a thought for his own safety after seeing his 13-year-old daughter getting into difficulty as she swam with friends in the River Thames.

He was quickly overcome by the fast-moving water and disappeared beneath the surface, watched from the bank by his partner of 17 years and two of his children.

His horrified family and passers-by frantically combed the river bank for lifesaving equipment only to realise that a buoy they could have thrown to him, was missing. Mr Payne's body was found at the bottom of the river by police divers the following day.

Today, deputy Berkshire Coroner Ravi Sidhu slammed the behaviour of vandals who had taken the buoys.

'The stupidity of people that remove these lifebuoys is beyond comprehension,' he told the hearing in Windsor, Berkshire. 'It is a tragedy that the lifebuoy wasn't there and had been constantly removed by vandals and thieves. 'It is unforgivable that some people think it is some kind of joke to remove them when in this situation it could have saved a man's life.'

The deputy coroner was told that Zoe, aged 13 years, had got into difficulty in the fast running water alongside the lock at upmarket Cookham, Berkshire.

Mr Payne was with his partner Sharon Clark and another daughter, walking the family dog when they heard screams. 'We realised as we got closer it was Zoë,' said Ms Clark. 'She was struggling and screaming and shouting for help. Two boys who had been fishing on the other side jumped in and
her dad jumped in on our side. She was in the middle.

The two boys reached Zoe first and began helping her to the safety of the far side of the bank, the inquest heard. 'Then he (Michael) got into trouble and was struggling in the water,' she continued. 'By the time the two boys had got to the bank with Zoe he had gone under. 'He (Michael) was quite a strong swimmer but the river was flowing quite fast.'

Ms Clark said the nearest lifebuoy had been stolen and there was a second one on the far side of the river but it was behind a locked gate and could not be reached.

Police divers were called in the following day, July 15 this year, and they discovered Mr Payne's body on the riverbed 3.6m below the surface.

Mr Payne was known to suffer from diabetes and asthma and had had a couple of 'small strokes.' 'He did what any father would have done in that situation,' said brother Joby Payne. 'I would have done exactly the same thing to save my kids.'

The post mortem examination concluded that Mr Payne drowned.

In a letter to the coroner from Cookham Parish Council, members explained how the lifebuoys were repeatedly damaged and stolen.

In the letter they explained that the current advice from the Environment Agency was to remove lifesaving equipment and benches that encouraged people to congregate in the area to deter people entering the water.

Mr Sidhu recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Speaking after the hearing Mr Payne's brother, Joby, called for the Parish Council to install safety fences along the stretch of the river. 'When I was younger I nearly drowned there and my daughter nearly drowned there. When are lessons going to be learned,' he said. 'How many more lives must be taken? How many more people have to go through the grief we are going through?

'There should be a fence there to deter people going down there to swim.' He said he would like to 'wring the neck' of the vandals who removed the lifebuoy from the river bank. 'I hope they never have children who get into difficulty down there and cannot be saved because the lifebuoys are missing.'
Cocaine found floating at New Mexico lake where small plane crashed; no survivors found


15 Nov, 2011 Sue Major Holmes, The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - State police divers have recovered what a spokesman describes as "fragmented pieces of human remains" from a northern New Mexico lake where authorities have been finding bundles of cocaine since a small plane crashed into the lake.

State police spokesman Lt. Eric Garcia said he doesn't know if the remains found Monday belong to more than one person or if there are more remains. The plane, the pilot and any passengers haven't been identified, he said.

Winds and current have caused plane debris to spread since Sunday's crash, but more than 20 packages of cocaine have been recovered. Dive team members, who were working 100 feet (30 metres) below the water's surface Monday afternoon, recovered only small pieces of the plane — the largest about the size of a piece of paper, Garcia said.

Divers have found nothing that would identify the aircraft, but "the more the water gets rocky, the more debris turns up," he said. The human remains have been turned over to the state Office of the Medical Investigator.

Witnesses reported the plane crashed into Heron Lake, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Santa Fe, at about 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Lake patrol officers found several packages of cocaine, each weighing about a kilogram, or 2 pounds, floating on the lake.

State police have blocked the road to the lake to stop people from getting into the area while the search continues.

Air trafficking historically has been a significant issue for Southwest border states, state police Chief Robert Shilling said Monday.

"I won't say it's keeping us super busy and we're interdicting a plane a week, but ... air smuggling in New
Mexico always has been and will continue to be an issue for law enforcement," he said from state police headquarters in Santa Fe.

In April 2010, state police called about the hard landing of a small plane outside Tucumcari in eastern New Mexico found a stash of more than 400 pounds of marijuana inside the plane and hidden in nearby bushes. Police valued the drugs at more than $500,000. The largest problem now comes from ultra-light craft used in trafficking along the border, Shilling said.

The Federal Aviation Administration will investigate the cause of Sunday's crash.

**Internal Investigation Of Scuffle Between Fire & Police Divers**


November 15, 2011  Kristyn Hartman

CHICAGO (CBS) – Police Supt. Garry McCarthy confirmed Tuesday that an internal investigation is underway after a Marine Unit diver accused a Fire Department captain – and son of a former Fire Department commissioner – of knocking him to the ground earlier this month as they tried to rescue two men from the Chicago River near Goose Island.

As CBS 2’s Kristyn Hartman reports, the police diver called the fire captain’s actions totally out of line.

**LISTEN: WBBM Newsradio’s Mike Krauser reports**

Monday night, Capt. Altman’s wife said “It’s all gossip. It’s all people making up stories.” Smith offered a totally different take on Tuesday. In a statement, he said “His (Altman’s) actions were totally out of line. I was there to rescue and investigate why two people were in the river. Any ordinary citizen would have been arrested on the spot. He is responsible for his actions, regardless of his connections.” Smith said Altman shoved him so hard, he fell to the ground.
No one has said what provoked the confrontation, but because of the rescue operation at hand, a source said the decision was made to handle it later - thus the case report recently filed by Smith.

CBS 2 could not get access to that report or much additional information about the confrontation. "It’s an internal investigation ... we’re not going to talk about it now," McCarthy said Tuesday.

Smith said, “My complaint is against the one individual, not the entire Chicago Fire Department.” Altman did not respond to calls for comment. Before his wife ended an interview on Monday, she said she knew of no case report and referred other questions to the Fire Department.

Meanwhile, WBBM Newsradio’s Mike Krauser reports the Better Government Association has begun a probe of the investigation, which is unusual for an alleged battery.

In an article written in conjunction with the Chicago Sun-Times, the BGA says Joshua Dennis, the executive assistant to Fire Commissioner Robert Hoff, sent an e-mail to department brass saying no requests by the city Inspector General are to be honored unless approved by the Fire Commissioner.

Man drives vehicle into water, refuses to be rescued


November 20, 2011 By Kristy Wolski, Reporter

TAMPA -- A man intentionally drove his car into the Tampa By-Pass Canal in what officials said was an attempt to kill himself.
According to Tampa Police Dept. officials, boaters watched the man drive his 2009 Audi SUV into the water near Maydell Dr. and attempted to pull the man out of the water.

The man, later identified as Kumura Bell, 32, of Tampa, refused their help and began to swim away.

The man was eventually pulled from the water by a TPD Marine Patrol Unit. Once out of the water, officials said the man advised officers his wife was still in the now submerged vehicle.

Divers searched for and located the vehicle, floated it to the surface, but couldn't find the woman.

Officials determined his wife was not in the vehicle, because she was never in the vehicle to begin with.

Once officers located the man's wife, she stated her husband was depressed due to familial issues and threatened to harm himself earlier Sunday. According to officials, the suspect eventually admitted to police that he was alone in the car.

The suspect was Baker Acted and transported to Tampa General Hospital.

**Police divers looking for man in canal near Valleyfield**


21 Nov, 2011 Montreal Gazette

MONTREAL – Sûreté du Québec divers searched the Beauharnois Canal near Valleyfield on Monday for a 35-year-old man missing after a bizarre incident involving a car collision.

The collision took place Sunday about 2 p.m. on the St. Louis Bridge that links St. Louis de Gonzague and Valleyfield, about 70 kilometres southwest of Montreal, SQ Sgt. Claude Denis said.

A car with two occupants collided with another car with one occupant, Denis said. Following the collision, the sole occupant “threw himself into the water,” Denis said. The motive for the man’s actions was not known, Denis added.

Firefighters used boats to search the area Sunday afternoon but found nothing. An SQ spokesperson said
that if nothing was found Monday, divers might return to the search on Tuesday.

**Bodies were in dam for some time - cops**

November 20 2011 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

Three men were found dead in a dam at President Brand mine near Welkom in the Free State on Sunday, said paramedics. Picture: Steve Lawrence

Johannesburg - Three men were found dead in a dam at President Brand mine near Welkom in the Free State on Sunday, said paramedics.

ER24 spokesman Andre Visser said the men were found by security guards in the dam around 10am.

Paramedics arrived on the scene at 11.10am. Police divers had already removed the bodies from the dam and the men were declared dead at the scene.

Visser said paramedics believed the bodies were in the dam for some time and drowning was the suspected cause of death. Police were investigating. - Sapa

**Authorities rescue driver from flooded street**

Tuesday November 22, 2011

Members of the Spencer Police and Volunteer Fire departments, along with Roane County Sheriff’s deputies and EMS personnel, had to coordinate a water rescue Tuesday morning after a woman’s car stalled in high water on Front Street in Spencer. Officials said the woman had apparently misjudged the depth of the water flooding onto the road from nearby Spring Creek. Front Street is prone to flooding.

**Local authorities concerned about lack of fire boats in shore towns**

Members of the Spencer Police and Volunteer Fire departments, along with Roane County Sheriff’s deputies and EMS personnel, had to coordinate a water rescue Tuesday morning after a woman's car stalled in high water on Front Street in Spencer. Officials said the woman had apparently misjudged the depth of the water flooding onto the road from nearby Spring Creek. Front Street is prone to flooding. (Photo courtesy of Jacob Fetty/City of Spencer)
November 25, 2011 By JOEL LANDAU, Staff Writer

During a fire, it is customary for local companies from surrounding towns to respond.

But if the fire occurs over the water, only a handful of companies in the region are able to offer assistance, and local authorities warn that the lack of fire boats leaves the area vulnerable to a major fire on the water.

"The city is an island. It's surrounded by water. There are several fires on the bay where we couldn't get to the rear of the building," said Dennis Brooks, chief of the Atlantic City Fire Department.

Brooks said the department has asked City Council to supply a boat but they have been unable to fund the request. In 2009, a fire on the waterfront in the city's Lower Chelsea neighborhood caused $1.5 million in damage, displaced 22 apartment residents and took three hours to extinguish. That event also prompted calls for a fire boat.

"Anytime you can do something for the safety of the public, it's a priority. But we're in a budget crisis," he said. "There was a possibility of grant money, but we're not able to explore it. Right now, no one is interested in doing that."

Bruce Funk, assistant chief of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department, said his unit is the only one on Absecon Island with a fire boat. "Every five years, we have a bay fire and everyone says we should get a boat," he said. "The problem with a fire boat is it's another piece of equipment. For a city to spend that amount of money on a piece of equipment is tough, especially with how budgets are the way they are."

Longport purchased its boat five years ago after a resident donated $30,000 for the 25-foot vessel, Funk said. They added a pump that can use 400 gallons of water a minute and has range of about 150 feet. The department has three or four firefighters operate the boat on a call, he said.

The boat has been used to fight fires, assist in searches and rescues, and provide support for events such as airshows in Atlantic City and Ocean City, Funk said.

Patrick Armstrong, fire captain of the Margate and Longport fire departments, said he has seen an increase in water activities and the need for water rescues. The
boat is key in responding to situations that may arise, he said.

"We've found ourselves putting out fires and water emergencies a lot more," he said. Although Longport uses the boat to assist other departments, Funk said it is primarily used for borough calls. "We are a fire department, not a water-based rescue operation," Funk said. "Although it's our boat, we reach out to other communities."

Frank Denan, assistant fire chief for the Somers Point Fire Department, said the city and Longport often work together on fires. The two departments responded to a fire at the fishing pier under the Somers Point-Longport Bridge last summer that was caused by cigarette butts. Without boat access, the fire could have spread and caused a lot more damage, he said.

The boat allows the department to do rescues from water instead of coming in from land, Funk said. The U.S. Coast Guard and New Jersey State Police Marine Services Bureau do rescues but they are stationed in Atlantic City and Ocean City, he said. Longport is able to respond quicker, he said.

Other companies near large bodies of water, such as Stone Harbor, Sea Isle City, Town Bank in Lower Township, and Port Norris in Commercial Township, have boats for fires. Some companies near rivers have smaller boats for rescues or during flooding when residents need to be evacuated. Avalon Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kevin Scarpa said the municipality raised about $100,000 to buy and retrofit a 25-foot aluminum former State Police boat at an auction in 2009. It replaced a boat they bought in 2000.

The department uses it for calls three miles from the shore for which they are responsible, Scarpa said. "There's not a lot of fire (calls), but if you're responsible for water, you better
have a boat," he said. But boats aren't always successful.
Denan said that in 2009, Somers Point firefighters responded to a fire at the Seaview Harbor Marina during which a number of boats were on fire. But the blaze occurred during low tide at 1 a.m., and the boat could not reach the area, he said. The fire was put out by land, he said.
Local departments have to cover for fires in their area after the Coast Guard stopped its firefighting service about 10 years ago. Lt. Andrew Madjeska, public affairs officer for the Coast Guard's Delaware Bay sector in Philadelphia, said the guard will assist departments during a fire call.
"When lives are in danger, we will immediately respond," he said. "Fire is dangerous stuff. It requires long-term training to be done safely."
Cliff Higbee, chief of the Downe Township Fire and Rescue Company, said the discontinuation of the Coast Guard's firefighting service created a dangerous situation. "The Coast Guard created a big void that's being dumped on local municipalities," he said. "For years, the Coast Guard took care of it. But then they put it in the departments' hands." Higbee said he is most concerned about boats traveling through the Delaware Bay. He said the area is a "bad accident waiting to happen."
"The biggest problem is if an oil tanker has a major fire," he said. "That would be a catastrophe. No way we'd be able to respond to it. It would be impossible. Really at no time you can't look out there and not see a big tanker or a barge. It's very busy all year."
Downe's company raised about $30,000 to purchase a 25-foot parker boat two years ago. The department retrofitted the boat to add pumps. There are not many grants available for fire boats, he said.
"They are expensive pieces of equipment for something you do not have a lot of calls for," he said. "We're all struggling for the equipment we use every day."

**Naval Protection & Diving Magazine**

http://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/top-stories/12006764/navy-sub-to-help-search-for-yachtie/
High tech navy equipment has been called in to help with the search for the body of a yachtsman missing on Lake Wanaka.

An underwater vehicle usually used to search for mines is due to carry out sweeps for the body of 70-year-old Trevor Hawke who is presumed drowned after he fell from a yacht last Thursday.

Police divers had failed to find any sign of Mr Hawke, a founding and life member of the Wanaka Yacht Club, and called off their search on Tuesday.

The submersible was used in Tonga's Princess Ashika ferry disaster, and had been used in searches for missing people before, navy spokesman Ange Barker told the Southland Times.

It will search a pre-programmed area of water up to 60 metres deep where Mr Hawke's body is believed to be after he went overboard when the yacht he was on lurched suddenly.

He was wearing a life jacket that needed to be manually inflated but disappeared under the water.

Meanwhile, Wanaka Yacht Club members held a minute's silence on Thursday night before their twilight race series, a week after Mr Hawke went missing.

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Water rescues prove dangerous for first responders

OSWEGO, N.Y. -- The waters of the Oswego River and Lake Ontario are cold, choppy and unpredictable and local first responders put their lives in danger each time they enter a body of water.

Oswego Fire Chief Jeff McCrobie said, "The current and the undertow in the Oswego River is extreme at times..."
and it was difficult."

Firefighters, dive teams and rescue boats battled cold waters Monday when crews rushed into the river looking for a man who jumped in and like many water responses, that search quickly turned from a rescue to recovery effort, forcing officials to decide if the danger of being on the water was worth risking responders' lives.

"You worry about protecting your own first. You don't ever want to put somebody in a position where their life can be lost searching for perhaps an unknown or in a situation where it's too late," said McCrobie.

Officials said every time a dive team enters a river or lake, those men and women face a variety of dangers, lurking just below the water's edge. Oswego Fire Department's First Assistant Chief, Donald Dowd, knows just how dangerous diving can be.

"In rescue diving, you've got hazards anywhere from limited visibility, we have muddy water, turbulent water, currents, currents to worry about, the added emotional stress of knowing you're diving for somebody's loved one," said Dowd.

Chief McCrobie said all emotional stress can sometimes entice firefighters to take unimaginable risks.

"We want to bring somebody home and perhaps recover them or whatever if we can. It's very important to us to bring these things to a close," McCrobie said.

Unfortunately, despite all the risks these first responders have taken, this time closure could be a long time coming. Officials have now scaled back their efforts, continuing only a surface search by boat for the man who jumped in Monday afternoon.

PICTURES: Search at Bangholme sewage plant
1 Dec 11 by Gilbert Gardiner and Georgie Haberfield

UPDATE 5.50pm: THE search for a man missing in a sewerage pit at the Eastern Treatment Plant in Bangholme has entered its sixth hour.

But the search for the 52-year-old man, feared dead, has prompted pleas from WorkSafe for people to slow down and think about what they're doing.

The missing Endeavour Hills man follows workplace deaths at Bayswater and Campbellfield in the past 24 hours.

"What we’re concerned about is we have had two
confirmed deaths, one missing and one life threatening injury since 11pm last night,” WorkSafe spokesman Michael Birt said.

“It makes it one of the worst 24-hour periods (on record).

“We certainly don’t have two deaths very often, and even more rare is three deaths in a day.”

It’s believed the man was doing routine testing at the time of his disappearance at about 10am this morning.

“We rarely get incidents where we walk away and think that’s really unusual - 99.9 per cent of the time people are doing what are for them routine jobs - loading machines, taking samples, doing repairs on something and that’s what they do every single day.

“So when people say things are a freak accident because they haven’t had a problem at all, maybe they’ve been lucky.”

**UPDATE 3.32pm:** POLICE divers are searching for a Melbourne Water sub-contractor who went missing at the Eastern Treatment plant.

The 52-year-old Endeavour Hills man was last seen at 7.15am while taking samples.

Detective Sen-Constable Dean Hedge said the matter was being regarded as an industrial accident.

It’s understood the man fell in a pumping system where the raw sewerage flows at about 6m per second.

“We’re conducting a recovery operation to look for him assuming he’s down there.

“It’s a large area they’re searching, they can’t see in there and it’s all being done by feel.”

Sen-Constable Hedge said the man was working alone at the time of his disappearance.

“At this stage we can only speculate about what’s happened, we won’t be sure until he’s found.”
The man’s family has been contacted and they are being given regular updates.

**UPDATE 1.09pm:** A MELBOURNE Water sub-contactor is missing at the Eastern Treatment Plant.

Emergency services have been on the scene since 10am searching for the man, believed to be aged in his 50s.

It is feared the lab technician has fallen into a sewage tank.

In a statement, Melbourne Water said: “One of our sub-contractors was carrying out routine sampling works at 7:15am and has failed to return from the tank area to the on-site laboratory.”

Melbourne Water said the man’s family has been contacted and it was working with the contracting company and the police to keep family members updated.

All work at the plant has ceased while the rescue operation continues.

**UPDATE 12.16pm:** A LAB technician could have fallen into a 1.5 million litre sewage tank as early as 7am.

It is believed the man started work about 6.30am taking samples from the tanks at the Eastern Treatment Plant.

Other workers realised he hadn’t been seen about 8.45am and equipment was found next to the tank.

The open sewage tank has been draining since about 10am and will finish about 1pm.

Specialist divers from Melbourne Water have arrived at the scene.

CFA, SES, police, ambulance and WorkSafe are at the scene.

**Earlier report 11.34am:** A SEWAGE tank at the Eastern Treatment Plant in Bangholme is being drained after a man is believed to have fallen in.

Equipment was found on the ground next to the tank, where it’s believed a man in his 50s fell in.

CFA and Melbourne Water crews have been on scene since about 10am while the large tank is being drained.

Specialist divers are also on the way.

**CAUGHT ON TAPE: Water rescue in Hancock County**


Dec 02, 2011 By Lisa Strawbridge. *This report is by our media partner The Findlay Courier.*

**BENTON RIDGE** (FINDLAY COURIER) -- A rescue boat carried a 29-year-old Benton Ridge woman to safety Thursday afternoon after her car slid off a water-covered portion of Hancock County 86, just east of the Putnam County line.
The woman, whom Hancock County Deputy Jacob Powell identified as Lillian Hertel, was lying in the rescue boat when it was pulled to a dry portion of the road.

View the video through a YouTube link.

Her sweat pants were soaked from being inside her partially-submerged, red Ford Taurus. Powell estimated the car was in water about three feet deep.

Hertel was placed on a stretcher and into a MedCorp ambulance. She will be cited for disobeying a traffic control device, Powell said, referring to a "Road Closed" sign posted on County 86 due to flooding.

The Blanchard Township Volunteer Fire Department received a call about the situation at about 4:15 p.m., said Fire Chief Bob Schoonover, and asked the McComb Fire Department to bring its rescue boat to the scene. Schoonover said he didn't know where Hertel had been headed.

A dog out for a stroll on Sumach Lake Thursday only got about 150 feet from shore when the inch-thick ice gave way from under him.

Clinging to the edge of the broken ice, he struggled to escape the frigid water. Fortunately, Robert Murray spotted the dog and called 911.

Murray, a resident along the lake, said he watched helplessly as the dog thrashed and struggled to climb out onto the ice, to no avail.

Within minutes personnel from the Arbor Vitae Fire and Rescue Department was on scene, outfitted with equipment and dry suits to rescue the dog.

The department had completed an arduous ice rescue training program in the mid-1990s and has used that training and subsequent equipment over the years to save people who had fallen through ice.

And one other time to save a dog.

For rescue workers, there was no difference between the two when it comes to life-saving.

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A life is a life.

The department's heavy rescue unit with ice rescue equipment was dispatched along with another rescue vehicle which pulled a boat, a smaller vehicle while other rescue workers drove squads to the scene.

Firefighter rescue assistant chief Steve Congdon said he
saw the dog, a black Labrador retriever, panting and treading water while his front paws clung to the ice. The rescuers assessed the situation before swinging into action.

The department follows a protocol when rescuing humans in the water, but it’s a different story when rescuing an animal.

The first step is to try to talk a person through getting out of the water onto the ice. If that fails, ladders or poles are stretched out to the person. The third option is to throw out ropes to pull them into shore.

"Obviously, you can't do that with a dog," Congdon said. "The last option is to go out and get the person - which is what we did with the dog."

The rescue team quickly decided to use a rescue life sled, which is a flotation device that looks sort of like a miniature pontoon boat. A rope is placed on the end to pull the victim to safety from the shore.

Congdon said he tried to walk the sled out to the dog, but the ice kept giving way. He ended up breaking a path through the ice to the dog with his body, pulling the sled behind him. "I touched bottom for only about the first 20 feet," he said. Then he had to sort of swim and float the remainder of the way.

When he reached the dog, he and firefighter Randy Trapp and firefighter rescue assistant chief Stan Lewis placed ropes around the dog's body and gently pulled him back to shore.

Once on solid ground, the dog was dried off, bundled in blankets and placed in a police squad car to slowly warm.

The entire rescue from the time of arrival had taken approximately 10 minutes. By that time, the dog's owners had arrived.

Congdon never got the name of either the dog or the owners, but he'll never forget the experience. "About three-quarters of the way in, he looked at me and I could see he suddenly realized he had been saved," Congdon said. "He looked at me and he's paddling along and he tries to kiss me."

Congdon said the entire department worked as a team to...
rescue the dog, the same as they would a person. "That's what we're trained for. We work as a team. Not one of us could do this alone," he said. "It's just another day at the office."

He said the department has been called out one other time to save a dog, but that rescue was much faster - it was just a matter of pulling him out.

In another incident, the ice rescue training came into play when four men had fallen through the ice on Big Arbor Vitae Lake.

The department holds annual ice rescue training sessions to keep their skills sharp. "You never know when the call comes in what you're going to find," he said.

Congdon said animals don't know about things like thin ice, but people do. He cautions people to be very sure ice is solidly frozen before venturing out on a lake or stream.

"Bring someone with you if you have to go on the ice. And don't have them walking right next to you." If it's not possible to have a companion, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

While waiting for rescue teams to arrive, Murray, who himself owns a Labrador retriever, went to the shoreline and prayed for the Lord to give him the strength to hang in a while longer.

"His (howling) cries were heart-wrenching," Murray wrote in an email Friday to The Lakeland Times. He remained at scene until rescuers had the dog safely ashore. "My heartfelt prayer was answered," he said.

SPONSOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ocean Technology Systems is proud to announce that we are an authorized GoPro dealer. The HD Hero2 records at 1080p at depths up to 197 feet giving the diver the opportunity to capture scenes or evidence at the site of investigation. It also produces detailed images with 2x image processing and professional low light performance.

The HD Hero2 easily mounts and adjusts onto the Guardian using the rail system and the 3-way pivoting arm, ensuring you can get the angle that you want. Using the LCD BacPac, the detachable LCD screen, you can instantly playback photos and videos with its built in speakers and volume control. It also allows you to see what you are shooting, so framing complex scenes will be easier to manage.
Capital Murder - San Antonio, Texas
April 2002
http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=067_1294239628
Here is an actual underwater gun recovery case, start to finish. - San Antonio, Texas April 2002

This homicide took place at a corner store in San Antonio, Texas in April 2002 where a substance abuser shot and killed the compliant store clerk for no reason. The offender then fled in his girlfriends vehicle and threw the murder weapon in Braunig Lake. She witnessed him throwing a metal object in the lake and later called police after learning of the robbery on the news. The .357 magnum was recovered from the lake by specialized recovery divers with the San Marcos Area Recovery Team (SMART). The suspect was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. This video was entered into evidence at trial and was obtained from the San Antonio PD through a freedom of information request. The story of the San Marcos Area Recovery Team and other SMART dive operations is detailed in the book "Hardened Hearts" written by Dan Misiaszek.
Question: Can I dive with diabetes?
Answer: The short answer is—maybe.

Until the middle of the 1990s, the official medical advice was that diving with diabetes was too risky. Thanks to research by Steve Prosterman of the University of the Virgin Islands, the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), we've learned a lot in the last few years, and today, it's a case-by-case decision based on how well the diabetic controls his condition.

If you're a diabetic who dives or wants to dive, the first step is to consult your personal physician to learn as much about controlling your condition as possible.

Question: How can diabetes affect a diver?
Answer: Diabetics can be at risk from the effects of both the condition and the methods of controlling it.

- The possibility of seizures and loss of consciousness from hypoglycemia has been the big obstacle to certifying diabetics.
- Insulin reactions and the resulting rapid onset of low blood sugar levels can impair judgment.

Diabetics not in control of their condition excrete excess sugar in urine, a process that leads to dehydration and puts the diver at greater risk of DCS.

Question: So who can and can't dive?
Answer: Any diabetic who can't recognize hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), hyperglycemia (high blood sugar), or who is diagnosed with ketoacidosis (acidic condition from breakdown of ketones) or organ disease (kidneys, eyes, heart) must be disqualified. Sorry, the risks are still too great.

The good news: Diabetics who practice excellent self-management, understand the relationship between exercise and diabetes, and are disciplined enough to follow these guidelines are qualified for conservative sport diving without problem.

The Guidelines

Before Diving
- Wear a medical ID stating that you are diabetic and also a diver.
Hydration is doubly important to the diabetic diver to prevent decompression illness.

Maintain good physical condition and good diving skills.

Don't dive if you: Can't recognize when you are having a reaction, don't completely understand your condition or if you have any concurrent illness.

Tell the divemaster. He or she must be aware that you're a diabetic and should also be informed of your intended profile.

Tell your buddy. The diabetic diver's buddy should be familiar with the diabetic, aware of potential problems and properly trained in responding to them.

Monitor and stabilize blood glucose. Blood glucose should be monitored before every dive and stabilized at 150 to 180 mg/dl prior to the dive. Steve Prosterman, dive supervisor at the University of the Virgin Islands, recommends a minimum of three blood glucose measurements within one hour prior to diving (e.g., 1 hour, 30 minutes, and five to 10 minutes prior).

"The important thing is to find the direction of the blood glucose. Under no circumstances should a dive be performed if the blood glucose is dropping," Prosterman says. "If it's going down, take carbos to stabilize it. Usually it can be corrected after the second test."

If blood glucose levels are rising, aim for a minimum reading of 120 to 130mg/dl before diving.

Pack a dive kit. This must include: two separate packs of oral glucose paste or tablets in waterproof containers; an emergency intra-muscular injection of glucagon to rapidly raise dangerously low blood sugar levels (make sure someone in your dive party is capable of administering the injection); and a glucose-measuring kit with instructions.

During the Dive

- Always carry oral glucose under water. A glucose gel in a plastic container, like InstaGlucose, is recommended. Both the diver and his non-diabetic buddy should carry two tubes each.

- Communicate with your buddy. The diabetic diver and buddy should have hand signals and an abort plan well established in the event of a reaction under water. Prosterman recommends an "L" sign for low blood sugar.

- When the sign is given, both divers surface and inflate their BCs. The diabetic immediately ingests carbos before the buddy team returns to the boat or shore.

- Limit your depth to 80 to 90 feet. This will help you avoid nitrogen narcosis, which may be confused with—or mask—an insulin reaction. Under no circumstances should diabetics engage in decompression diving, which limits the diver's ability to surface promptly in case of low blood sugar.
After the Dive
Check your glucose level. Correct as necessary. By tracking the drop in blood sugar after dives, diabetics can learn to better control their condition.

Report any adverse symptoms. Symptoms of low blood sugar can mask decompression illness (DCI) and vice versa. Unless there is a reason to suspect DCI, Prosterman recommends treating for low blood sugar first, which will resolve in 10 to 15 minutes. If symptoms do not resolve with glucose, treat the case as a dive accident by administering 100 percent oxygen and calling for medical help.

Question: So I should come clean with my dive instructor or dive guide about my condition?

Answer: Absolutely.

For years, diabetic divers have hidden their conditions in order to participate. As the dive community begins to recognize the new rules for diabetes, the safest—and most responsible—course of action is full disclosure. It's important that your buddy and divemaster be fully aware of potential reactions and how to respond to them.

What is Diabetes?
Diabetes mellitus, also called "the sugar disease," occurs when the pancreas can't produce enough of the hormone insulin to convert glucose from food into energy. It affects five to seven percent of the population.

There are two main types of diabetes. Type I, also called insulin dependent diabetes, normally affects children or adolescents.

Type II, also called non-insulin dependent diabetes or adult-onset diabetes, accounts for 90 percent of cases and usually occurs in overweight adults.

Treatments for diabetes include daily insulin injections to lower high blood sugar levels, oral medications, regulating the diet, exercise and constant blood glucose monitoring.

Are there diving programs for Diabetics?
There's no better role model for diabetic divers than Stephen Prosterman, diving supervisor at the University of the Virgin Islands. Diagnosed at the age of nine, Prosterman never let his condition get in the way of an active lifestyle. And when he moved to the islands more than 20 years ago, that lifestyle soon included diving.

His love for the sport led him to create the first protocol for responsible diving with diabetes, and this work spurred much of today's ongoing research. It also led to Camp DAVI, an annual summer program for diabetics 17 and older that uses diving and other adventure sports to teach campers how to tightly manage their condition. The program, overseen by Dr. Doren Frederickson of the Kansas University School of Medicine, also advances research into diving with diabetes.

For more information on Camp DAVI, call (340) 693-1399, e-mail Steve Prosterman at sproste@usvi.edu or visit the web site at www.diabetesnet.com/visle.html.
Warning Signs of Diabetes?

Adult-onset diabetes usually occurs in overweight middle-aged people. Sound like anyone you know? See your doctor immediately if any of the following symptoms apply to you:

- Any family history of diabetes.
- Frequent urination.
- Unexplained weight loss.
- Ravenous appetite.
- Constant thirst.
- Constant sleepiness.
- Blurred vision.
- Sticky urine.
- Shakiness after a high-carbohydrate meal.
- Easy fatigue and nausea.
- A tendency to get fungal and bacterial infections.

According to the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, 798,000 new cases of diabetes are discovered each year. Unfortunately, an estimated 5.4 million people remain undiagnosed and are at risk for the long-term damage that can result—including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease and nervous system damage.

For more information on Diabetes, go to:

American Diabetes Association
http://www.diabetes.org/ The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes and fighting for those affected by diabetes.
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 if 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/  

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2-day Side Sonar Training Seminar for Law Enforcement Personnel  
January 11-12, 2012

**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 Sheriff’s office, and will be held at Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia, January 11-12.

**Surf Expo, Orlando, FL, USA**  
Jan 14 thru Jan 16

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If you have an event to share, send the information to: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com
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/
1) Suggested response for a drowning victim is Reach, Throw, Row, Go.
   a. True
   b. False

2) Drowning victims can be identified by their loud cry for help.
   a. True
   b. False

3) Which of the following is not a normal category for water hazards?
   a. Biological
   b. Chemical
   c. Radiation
   d. Medical waste

4) Often drowning victims appear to be treading water.
   a. True
   b. False

5) A medical record and current diving contraindications is important for divers in that nitrogen narcosis could be misinterpreted for an insulin reaction.
   a. True
   b. False

6) Which of the following is not a biological hazard that may be encountered during diving operations?
   a. Hepatitis A
   b. Hepatitis B
   c. Tetanus
   d. Cholera
   e. Heavy metal oxides
   f. All of the above

7) Water cadaver dogs require a different training to detect human scent and alert.
   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) Contaminated diving equipment should include:
   a. Hard helmet
   b. Surface supplied air
   c. Protective dry suit
   d. Communications
   e. Only A
   f. A-D
   g. A-C

10) These are NOT signs of drowning when persons are in the water:
   a. Head low in the water, mouth at water level
   b. Repeatedly calling for help
   c. Head tilted back with mouth open
   d. Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
   e. Spitting water
   f. Eyes closed
   g. Hair over forehead or eyes
   h. Excessive splashing
   i. Not using legs – Vertical
   j. Hyperventilating or gasping
   k. Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
   l. Dog paddling and choking
   m. Trying to roll over on the back
   n. Appear to be climbing an invisible ladder.
   o. Indexing the middle finger while sipping a beer (just checking)

Team Discussion:

1. Assess the risks of your potential diving environments to help you to plan for and equip yourself with the materials and training you need to manage them effectively.

2. If your risk assessment determines the potential for your team to dive in a contaminated environment, your team members should receive OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard training. Review your SOG/SOP for your inclusion of this important safety issue.

3. Discuss with your local animal control/response folks the guidelines to be used for animal rescue in water. Include how your department can be of assistance.

4. Make a training day just for top water rescue. Practice top water rescue skills and utilize equipment on hand.

5. Assess your team’s ability to respond in rescue mode and identify weaknesses in training, response guidelines and equipment.
PSDiver Monthly is a free subscriber E-Zine distributed by Press Release notice and website download. We have a worldwide 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

PSDiver is a downloadable Internet Magazine. Subscribers are notified via permission based email that a new issue is available for download.

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

**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.

**PSDM 90 CE Answers**

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**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

PSDiver Monthly Issue 90 45
FOUR WORMS

A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.
The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.
The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.
The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:
The first worm in alcohol ... Dead.
The second worm in cigarette smoke ... Dead.
The third worm in chocolate syrup ... Dead.
The fourth worm in good, clean soil ... Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back and quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service!!