



PSDiver Magazine 111

February 2015

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT FOR PSD TEAMS By Mark Phillips

**How to *DESTROY*
Your Drysuit!**
BY SUSAN LONG

**Hyperventilation-
Induced Blackout**
From Lifesaving Resources

Miss Us?!

It has been a while and taken some effort to relaunch PSDiver. The first thing you might have noticed is that the name has changed. Instead of being a monthly magazine, the goal now is to be at least a quarterly magazine. It is possible, even likely that we will produce a few micro issues in between that will contain announcements, training or funding opportunities or other time sensitive information. We will not fill your email.

If you are really interested, you can go back and reread past issue editorials and get a sense of things that caused the delay in publishing.

The new formats will continue to evolve and take shape through the year. We will see how it goes and I look forward to your feedback. I am also entertaining the idea of selling the magazine and either retiring altogether or staying on as a managing editor/writer. I just can't see myself not doing this...

If you are interested, I am teaching the 6th Annual Underwater Body and Weapon Recovery class at UT Austin May 29-31. Details and information are posted at www.PSDiver.com.

Recently I was invited to participate in a workshop that was strictly for and about the health and well-being of public safety divers. The workshop was hosted by UC San Diego Health Sciences, Center of Excellence in Diving; and sponsored by: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, OxyHeal Health Group, Divers Alert Network (DAN), ScubaPro, and Diving Unlimited International (DUI)., I WILL tell you that as a diving community, you are being recognized and acknowledged more now than ever before. The information and ideas that were shared in the workshop were unique and we have never been thought of or had so much consideration as I witnessed in the workshop. It is exciting

to witness and I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate.

With this workshop in mind, I want to take this opportunity to point out something I see far too many instructors and teams gloss over. We all use either the RSTC medical form or something derived from it as part of our *medical fitness to dive evaluation*. This is the SAME basis of the recreational medical form too!

The third question on the questionnaire is: **Are you over 45 years of age and can answer YES to one or more of the following?**

- **currently smoke a pipe, cigars or cigarettes**
- **have a high cholesterol level**
- **have a family history of heart attack or stroke**
- **are currently receiving medical care**
- **high blood pressure**
- **diabetes mellitus, even if controlled by diet alone**

This means, IF you over 45 years of age and can answer YES to one or more of the following, you MUST have a physician's release in order to participate in scuba!

I know a LOT of my peers are almost all over the age of 45. VERY few of them can answer "no" to the question - if they are honest. If you take a daily prescription you are receiving current medical care.

It is your health but it also has the potential to effect the safety of your team members if you have a medical emergency that could have been avoided.

Be responsible for yourself and have a doc look you over.

Dive Safe,
Mark Phillips

If you would like to discuss this topic or any other join our discussion group
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT FOR PSD TEAMS

By Mark Phillips

Originally the idea of presenting an article on safety and risk management seemed as uninteresting to me as it probably does to you. It has been my observation that many teams talk about risk and risk management but do so without really analyzing what they are doing. It is my intention to present some of my personal observations, opinions and concepts on how to recognize and use risk analysis to mitigate risk for your divers and your teams.



In reality we have no way to actually *measure* risk. We tend to overuse the phrase "**Risk Benefit**". It is supposed to be a ratio of "Risk vs. Benefit" that goes like this: "Does the risk of this action

outweigh the benefit of the desired result". If we were honest we could say something like: "Does risking our lives looking for a piece of evidence that may or not be where we think it is worth the potential negative outcome even if we are successful?" Unless we had perfect conditions, including visibility, manpower and equipment or had the potential to save a life, our honest answer would have to be, "No".

We overuse and misuse the phrase because it sounds like something we should do but no one ever really taught us

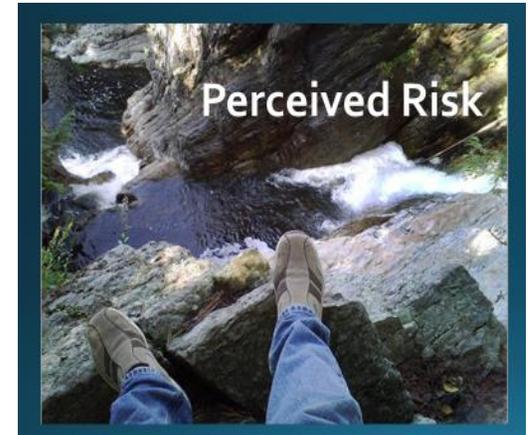
how. I am not implying that we are doing anything wrong, just that our concepts of risk and how we perceive risk may have become skewed.

Risk becomes a generic word when different people use it and it can mean different things to different people. The meaning is blurred between these personal definitions when associating risk to dive teams.

However, I think we can identify risk three ways.

First we have **perceived risk**. This is the analytical definition based on a lot of "what if" scenarios.

If we stand on the edge of a cliff and look down we are safe but can get scared anyway and perceive risk. What if I fall, what if I slip, what if a hard wind comes?



Second we have **actual risk** or if it works better to understand this concept, **committed risk**.

If we fall off the cliff we are scared and

worried while we contemplate exactly how birds fly. But no amount of arm flapping will make us stop falling.

Last we have **consequence of risk**. This is most closely to what we generally think of when we talk about risk.

When, where and how we land when we fall off the cliff is what we are scared of and worried about. In reality it is NOT perceived or committed risk we are concerned with, it is the landing –the **Consequence of Risk**.

Risk is not something defined; it is the perception of the measure of all the possible outcomes of our choices and actions.

But if we consider how we perceive risk it becomes easier to understand how we measure it ourselves.

If we considered possible outcomes like, “getting trapped in barbed wire in zero visibility could cause you to run out of air and die”, then we identify a potential event outcome that we might want to avoid. Drowning, death and dismemberment are consequences we usually want to avoid.

What we do to prevent injury or death are the safety elements we put into place that mitigate bad or fatal outcomes for our divers and our teams. These elements take away the chance of making uneducated decisions.



These elements can be anything from specific techniques, equipment, training and fitness requirements to standard operational guidelines, leadership and administrative support or **all the above**.

If we know how to identify risk, we can work on mitigating it. We could say untethered solo diving in zero visibility is very risky. The statement only gives us a generic idea to agree on. It does not necessarily define or identify risk. We could say, untethered solo diving in zero visibility forces the diver to overcome potential challenges with no hope of help or additional assistance. Maybe we should be more specific. We could say

untethered solo diving in zero visibility will be fatal if the diver becomes entangled and cannot escape before running out of air.

We can mitigate the risk by recognizing the potential negative consequences and saying: All low, limited or zero visibility diving will be conducted by a tended diver.

If we recognize that a simple look at the scene and an “OK, let’s dive” is what we usually do, the concept of a Risk vs. Benefit analysis for a specific dive or dive site goes out the window. But if we have an operational system in place that automatically works to reduce potential negative consequences of risk we can make quick judgment calls on scene. And in reality, it is what we do already. But this only works in the most basic terms and requires a great deal of prerequisite conditions. These conditions include proper training, adequate

manpower, proper and serviceable equipment and the proven ability to conduct the dive at hand.

There are other consequences of risk that are not addressed this way but can be devastating to an individual and/or family. These are the consequences we never seem to talk about but to some are the defining negative consequences of the risk we accept.

Ask yourself the following questions:

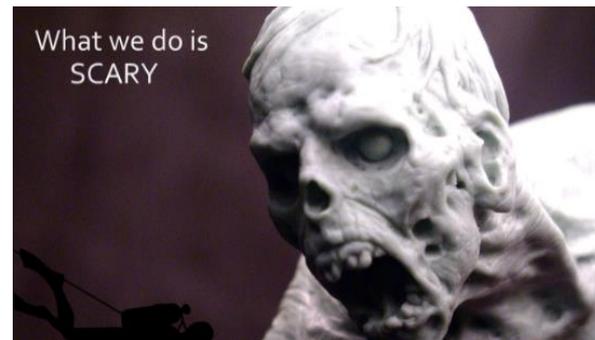
- What will happen to one of your divers if they survive a **diving accident**, but are permanently disabled?
 - Do they have health insurance, disability insurance or even life insurance through their municipality? If so will that insurance provide financial and medical support to the diver and/or family? For how long?
- What responsibility does your department or team have to the family of a diver who drowns during a team mission or a training operation?
- What responsibility does your department or team have to a diver or his family if he was not properly trained for a given task and is injured, disabled or killed? Will that effect the financial support insurance might have allowed?
- What if one of your divers is allowed or assigned by your diving supervisor to perform a task outside of his training and is injured, permanently disabled or killed as a result? Is there an insurance umbrella to cover the injured diver or the divers surviving family?

- How long will any of that support, if any, last?

Everyone wants to immediately say, "we are covered" and say it with an almost defiant tone. But the truth is, unless one of these scenarios happened to you or a member of your team, you do not know. Volunteer FD teams may not have insurance coverage if their coverage is strictly written for firefighting. Paid departments may have insurance provisions that will not cover off duty divers or subsurface water operations.

If you are permanently disabled and unable to work, what is in place to financially support your family? If the coverage you have is for medical care only and you die, what happens to your family?

You should really take time to find out if for no other reason than piece of mind. If you get all the positive answers you are looking for, **document them in writing**. If you discover grey areas, insist on definitive answers in writing.



PSDs go places that no one else is willing to go to find things that most people avoid in the best of times and conditions. We do it willingly

and accept the risks we perceive. We do it with purpose. We do it sometimes for the wrong reasons but we still do it.

Risk Management

Risk Management must start with recognition and awareness of the potential for injury or loss of life.

We have to identify and recognize possible consequences and be prepared. In being prepared, we must ALWAYS keep as one of our choices, both personally and as a team, the ability and **willingness** to REFUSE the dive.

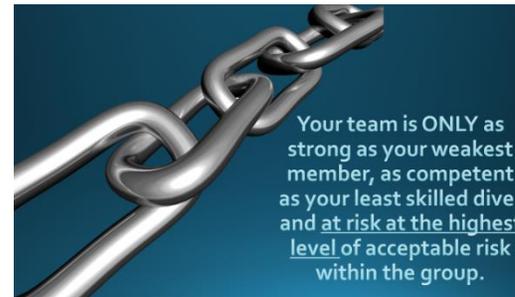


Safety and risk are the two ends of our spectrum of measure. As one increases the other decreases.

To reduce risk we can learn how to do

the work we task ourselves with more efficiently and safer. We usually accomplish that with a lot of training and in-water experience. But there is a paradox to risk. While you would think exposing divers to more work underwater would increase their risk, it actually seems to reduce their risk because they become more comfortable with diving conditions as they spend more time doing the work.

One valid argument against that statement creates another issue. The more experience a diver may have will reduce their risk up to a point but it can be said that divers who become comfortable in dangerous situations will be more likely to take greater risks and *challenge the limits of their own skills*. Developing a team mentality and training as a team will help reduce this outcome.



Risk is something the team takes on as a group but is defined by the individual diver(s). When team members have different levels of competency or their own definitions of

skill mastery, the level of acceptable risk is not the same for those within your group.

Your team is ONLY as strong as your **weakest** member, as competent as your **least** skilled diver and potentially at risk at the **highest level** of personal acceptable risk within the divers on the team.

When we relate risk with consequences and outcomes it makes us change the way the think about some things.

For example, you are called to recover a teenager who drowned in the river. He was caught by the current and pulled into deep water. He was last seen in the bend of the river where it is obvious that trees have stacked up.

Your team responds with 5 members. One of your best divers has a head cold and cannot dive. One is still working on his OW certification but has trained

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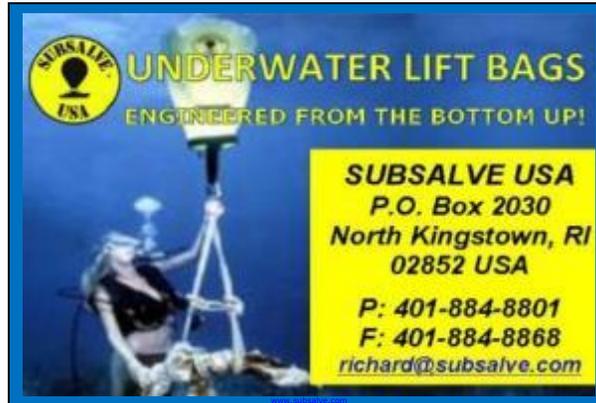
as a line tender. Of the other three, one is very experienced, the other two have made five dark water dives between them.

The Dive Officer looks at the situation and says, "Yep, we can do this". There is no question that a dive will be made. The only question is assignments.

We might choose to use our most experienced diver but if he gets into trouble, who is left that will be capable of helping him? If we chose one of the lesser experienced divers to be our Primary Diver, will they be able to handle the problems that will exist during the dive? Who will be that diver's backup diver?

- Who will you choose to be your Primary diver?
- Who will you choose to be your Backup Diver?
- Who will you choose to be your Safety Diver?
- Will you rotate divers? How will that affect the potential outcome? Why and when will that change any dive call?

In our world, recognition and awareness usually seems to come after the fact when fingers are pointed and one of us is hurt or dies during training or on a mission. Since the consequences of risk are usually very dire for dive teams, the finger pointing translates into. **Liability.**



So let's talk a bit about **LIABILITY.** But in the context of this, keep in mind you have NO specific national standard and no generic consensus standard that you are required to follow. So with no governmental penalty shadowing you, hopefully no criminal charges brought up against you, the penalties that do come will most likely be through a civil court.

In this instance, the question isn't: "How do Public Safety Divers get hurt or worse?" It is "Whose fault is it?" If your team is following a written operational guideline that is based on reasonable models that a large number of similar teams use and the guideline has been approved by your administration and upper management, fault can still be placed in your lap but will likely fall above you in the chain.

We can usually backtrack most all injuries or fatalities to one of the "The 7 Deadly Sins of Civil Liability" by Bob Teather, RCMP. If you have not read about them they are discussed in depth in the article - "Vicarious Liability and the Search and Rescue Team".



For our purposes we will define VICARIOUS LIABILITY as:

The liability of any organization and its officers and supervisors for the acts or omissions of those whom they supervise.

What follows is a brief description of 8 areas of negligence and associated court case references.

Download the article



Vicarious Liability
and the Search and Rescue Team
by Steve Giles and Mark Phillips

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/73952749/and-the-Search-and-Rescue-Team-and-the-Search-and-Rescue-Team>
or
http://www.psdiver.com/images/tr43_vicariousliability-secure.pdf

➤ **Negligent Appointment:** This concept asserts that a supervisor or manager can be held liable for appointment of the unfit person to the PSD team. It is important in this regard that dive team members possess the basic skills necessary to function as a public safety diver (i.e.: a given level of certification from a recognized SCUBA training agency, adequate watermanship skills, medical screening, background investigation, **competent PSD instruction**, etc.).

(*Davis v Mason County 927 F2d 1473*)

- **Negligent Retention:** This area addresses the individual who proves himself to be unqualified, incompetent, or reckless and is nevertheless allowed to remain and function as a part of the organization. (*United States v Mohr 318 F. 3d 613*)
- **Negligent Entrustment:** Allowing an individual to operate or use equipment that they are not competent to utilize, or allowing an individual to perform an act that they have either previously demonstrated that they are not reliably capable of performing, are incapable of performing safely, or possess no training or expertise at performing. (*McAndrews v Mularchuk 162 A. 2d 820*)

- **Negligent Supervision:** Failing to provide meaningful supervision, leadership, and oversight to an individual or an operation. This means that supervision must amount to more than mere supervisory presence. Supervision involves the active evaluation of the situation and participation in decision-making and guidance of the activities of the operation. (*Bowen v. Watkins 669 F. 2d. 979*)
- **Negligent Failure To Train:** Allowing a subordinate to perform an act for which proper training has not been provided, or failure to provide training with respect to the utilization of a piece of equipment or failure to train in the performance of an activity likely to be required of the subordinate. Training must parallel industry standards and practices and be within agency policy. Training must be realistic, ongoing, verifiable, and documented. (*Harris v City of Canton Ohio 109 Sct. 391*)

- **Negligent Failure To Direct:** Failure to provide knowledgeable guidance, instruction, and/or direction as to how to properly perform an action. Written standards and policies are important in this regard, however keep in mind that policy is a two edged sword and a department or team that



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violates its own written standards can be held liable. (*Lee v City of Omaha 307 NW 2d 900 / Maple v City of Omaha NW 2d 254*)

➤ **Negligent Assignment:** Assigning (or allowing) an individual to perform an act with knowledge that the individual is not competent to perform that activity or is not qualified or not properly trained to perform a given function (i.e.: allowing a team member designated as “support personnel” to exceed his capability and assume an active role as a diver in a PSD operation; allowing a new team member to assume the leadership role on an operation). (*Moon v Winfield 383 F.Supp. 31*)

➤ **Negligent Failure To Discipline:** Failure to take proper corrective steps in order to insure that critical infractions of rules or policies are not repeated. Discipline need not necessarily be harsh, but must be sufficient to discourage repeat violations. Discipline, like training, must be documented and retained. One area of discipline that undoubtedly affects nearly every dive team in existence is the problem of the diver who seemingly is unable to make training but shows up to participate in searches. This individual is much like the star high school athlete who believes that practice doesn't apply to him, but expects a starting position on game day. This is a recipe for a disaster in waiting. Diving skills are diminishing

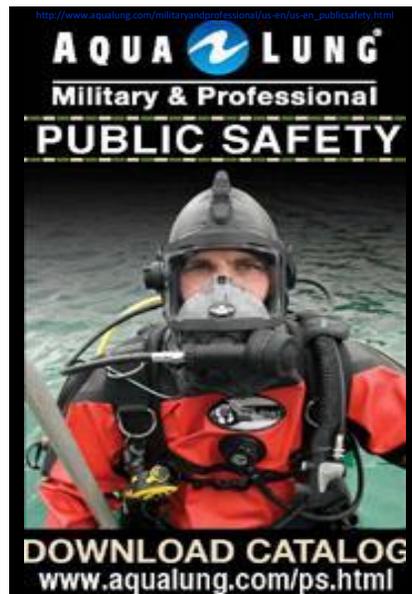
and must be continually refreshed and practiced. An individual who does not train regularly simply cannot be utilized on actual operations. (*Grandstaff v City of Borger 767 F. 2d 161*)

If they could show both need and an industry consensus or national standards that are directly related to their jobs and duties as Public Safety Divers, teams facing administrative issues that prevent or limit training or have restrictive or no equipment budgets but are still expected to perform the job would have tools to validate their issues. Some of their issues could be mitigated if there were a national standard for public safety diving, but there is not. And depending on your own observations here lies a very large problem.

Currently we have NFPA we can follow as a loose guideline. Since it is a **paid subscription based, fire standard**, law enforcement and independents do not usually follow them.

We have used the OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T - Commercial Diving Operations both as a standard to follow and as a crutch to exempt us from following that standard.

All the arguments you have heard concerning the exemption that allows us a public safety divers to work unencumbered by OSAH standards have confused the reality of the purpose of the exemption. We want a standard to follow, to point at, and use to show need for training and equipment. We want it but would rather not be forced to follow it.



Here is my **CURRENT information on the OSHA exemption.** OSHA has NO authority over Municipal or State government. OSHA has NO authority over volunteer or military groups. OSHA has NO authority over recreational divers who work under contract to provide public safety services for a law enforcement agency or municipal department.

So if you are a member of a volunteer or military dive team, if you are a member or under contract with a municipal or state dive team, **you are exempt from OSHA. But there MAY be some exceptions....**

There is more to the story and the DEFINITIVE and FINAL answer is coming SOON! (An article just on the subject of the exemption will be available soon,

6th ANNUAL UNDERWATER CSI SERIES
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 After May 7, 2015 \$400.00

For Non-Divers

Intro to UW Crime Scene Body & Weapon Recovery
May 29, 2015 - CLASSROOM ONLY 8:00 am - 5:00pm

LEARN WHAT A PSD TEAM IS CAPABLE OF AND HOW THEY CAN ADVANCE A WATER RELATED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION!

Advanced Registration ONLY \$100.00 After May 7, 2015 \$125.00
Paid non divers will be welcome to attend all three days.

In the classroom. participants will gain knowledge on basic concepts of zero visibility search and recovery, evidence handling and chain of custody, terminology, safety issues, standards information and the Public Safety Diving Discipline. Invaluable for new teams and an excellent refresher for established teams. New material is added every year making this one of the most current and relevant programs offered. Attention is placed on zero visibility diving, diver and team safety, documentation and paperwork, and successful dive missions.

WE WORK - Participants will be introduced to and challenged with a variety of skills in a clear water pool using blacked out masks. *Participants will be introduced to the concept of underwater survival and will learn training techniques that they can take back to their teams.* They will gain real experience in methods of underwater search and recovery while simulating zero visibility environments. These are the skills and techniques employed during our open water scenario training.

Our scenarios are real. Students will be challenged with an underwater crime scene in zero visibility and will use the skills and lessons learned to evaluate, document and conduct a crime scene related evidentiary recovery. This IS a challenging program and designed to present a new aspect of evidence recovery to teams who work both above and below the surface.

Upon successful completion, participants will earn
Emergency Response Diving International
BODY & WEAPON RECOVERY SPECIALIST




AND will come to you via your subscription account with PSDiver.com.)

We have no consensus standard that ALL who claim to be Public Safety Divers will agree to follow. We have no universally agreed upon definition of what a Public Safety Diver is or even what their actual functions are or the minimal training or skill level required to be one!

So, in essence we are only what we say we are and perform a task that has enough commonalities between teams that we can understand the terminology when we talk with each other. But even that is strained sometimes. If we take a step back and look at OSHA again, we are forced to bite the bullet and use their descriptions to identify who and what we are.

First, OSHA only has STANDARDS for Commercial Diving. They have *definitions* of Scientific Diving and Recreational Diving. **We** are recreational divers performing a specific PURPOSE. **We are described as persons engaged in diving incidental to police and public-safety functions.**

Lacking ANY other official definition, as unpleasant as it is, we are forced to define who we are by this definition.

We will know this but we will still identify ourselves as Public Safety Divers because WE agree that what WE do is outside the realm of a recreational diving.

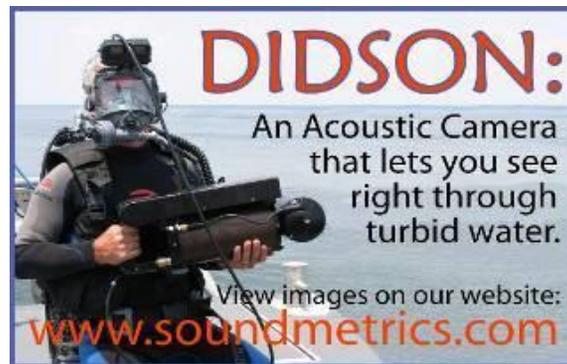
ANY other description we use, any other techniques or protocol etc. is either of our own doing or what we agreed to do when we affiliated with a training agency.

If a diver is injured, disabled or killed, what measures will be taken to place blame? What lengths will someone go to hold someone else responsible?

If you want to really work on increasing your team safety and lower your measure of risk, consider training for and preparing for worst case scenarios.

For example: When you have a training day, instead of just going out and running some patterns, add out of air scenarios.

When we talk about performing as a rescue diver in our world, we are usually referring to rescuing our own team members. So add elements of rescue to your normal training. This can be



anything from diver entrapment to rescue of an unconscious diver.

Considerations to Mitigate Risk

Three Strike Rule

Everyone has a bad day on occasion; those days where nothing seems to go right and the more you do the worse it seems to get. If you are cleaning out your garage or washing your car nothing really bad happens that isn't easy to overcome.



When we are diving, especially on a mission in zero visibility, everyone is stressed. It is the nature of the beast. Our experience and training take that stress and make it "normal" for us and we rarely even think about it.

But every team has experienced a situation where a diver has entered the water and forgotten his fins or weight belt. OR a diver who cannot seem to go underwater and stay. Or a diver who comes back to the surface

repeatedly with mask problems etc. It is rarely equipment issues that cause these things to happen, it is stress.

Each stress moment creates more stress for the diver.

The idea of the three-strike rule is more for the Dive Supervisor and the individual. What we do not want to do is create a situation where we have a

highly stressed diver forcing himself underwater to do an even more stressful job.

So a relatively new diver is asked to be Primary Diver. When he enters the water he discovers he is too light and needs more weight.

Not a big deal but - Strike one.

As he goes over line signals with his tender he goes through fast and has to correct himself once or twice Not an unusual thing for a new diver – Ball one.

The diver is directed on the surface to swim out and stops when signaled. A signal is given to descend and start his search. The diver begins to let our air and goes underwater only to return within seconds and pull his mask off at the surface. He quickly gets it back on, signals OK and begins a second descent – Strike two.

The diver signals he is on the bottom and is signaled to begin his search. When it is time to stop and change direction, the diver stays in place and them breaks the surface with an inflated BCD – I don't care why... Strike three.

It is FAR easier to be tactful and pull the diver out of the water and help him regain his composure while the other divers move forward in the rotation than it is to either have to reset the search or worse rescue your own diver.

This is not a time to chastise or be critical; it is time to allow the diver to either get mentally prepared for his

next turn or request to quit diving for the day. Things happen. We just don't want them to go from bad to worse.

Most of the time the diver is able to make whatever mental or equipment corrections necessary and is able to return to a dive position.

Minimum Staffing

DIVERS ON SITE MUST BE ABLE AND CAPABLE DIVERS
Otherwise they are surface ONLY operators!

Minimum staffing in order to make a RESCUE dive in zero visibility.
3 – MUST ALL BE: Able and Capable Divers

Minimum staffing in order to make a RECOVERY dive in zero visibility.
5 – Must include a minimum of 3 Able and Capable Divers
(Prefer min of 4)

Manpower

What is your minimum staffing in order to make a dive in zero visibility? Consider three team members for RESCUE and four for recovery. But these team members are further defined as **ABLE AND CAPABLE divers.**

In your own operational guidelines you might include the words ABLE AND CAPABLE divers on scene. Divers with head colds who cannot equalize cannot dive and cannot be counted as one of your divers. Able but NOT capable.

They are also assigned specific jobs that have specific function. Consider requiring two additional team members to function as Dive Supervisor and Line Tender.

In a recovery, **this requires 5** people including absolutely **no less than 3** able and capable divers. In this example we use the diver identification of Primary Diver, Backup Diver and Safety Diver. They use standard 80 cubic feet aluminum cylinders and the cylinders should be filled to their service pressure.

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Underwater Investigation Workshop

JUNE 1-5, 2015

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CJ 440 / CJA 640

Debunk the myths associated with underwater crime scene recovery operations. Learn and practice the scientific protocol that can and should be applied to underwater crime scenes. Methods and techniques to locate, recover and handle submerged evidence will be covered, along with the handling of firearms, bodies and vehicles to prevent contamination or loss of forensic evidence.

This workshop is a five-day (40 hour) course that carries three college credits. Participants include undergraduate and graduate students as well as criminal justice professionals from around the country and Pacific Region. Undergraduate and Graduate student participants may earn college credit.

Participants with SCUBA certification may earn an Underwater Investigator Certification upon payment of a \$22.00 certification fee through the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers. SCUBA certification is NOT required to participate in the course.

FACULTY

Ronald Becker, J.D.
Director, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Chaminade University
Former Director, Southwest Texas State Underwater Institute
Author, *Underwater Forensic Investigation*

Lt. Lynn Dixon
Commander, Texas Department of Public Safety Dive Team

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Tuition: \$1,410 (3 credits)
Housing: six nights, on-campus dorm suites
Double occupancy: \$45 - \$55 per night
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Housing Application Deadline: Thursday, April 30, 2015

Time Limits

Consider setting a maximum individual time of twenty minutes and maximum depth at 60'. Time and depth limits will change according to local conditions. When the Primary Diver has run out of time, he is removed from the water, his cylinder either filled or exchanged and he then takes the Safety Dive position. The other two divers move up the line providing constant rotation of divers. With this rotation, each diver has a theoretical surface interval of at least 40 minutes.

We also need to use common sense and not be absolute and rigid with time limits.

Allowances should be made if a diver needs a few more minutes to clear an area, provided the diver is capable, has enough air to do the additional work, and will maintain a reserve of air. Time should be altered when searching shallow depths allowing more bottom time to each diver. Keep in mind that if the divers are looking for small objects, the tedium of the search may become distracting and they may need to swap out after twenty to thirty minutes just to retain mental focus.

AIR is Important! Air = LIFE

WE dive in a hazardous environment; one incapable of sustaining human life. We are forced to bring an air supply with us. If we have air, we live, if we do not, we die. There are different opinions on the type of equipment you should carry when it concerns redundant air supplies. For instance, one camp requires divers to carry a redundant air supply with them at all times, another requires a team have a redundant air source available and still another believes a redundant air source is

unnecessary and that the divers would be trained well enough that they never run out of air.

You can decide which camp you want to be in. But consider this, in a zero visibility environment we usually have no idea what is in front of us or around us. Even known sites can be illicit dumping grounds for debris. If we have a time limit in place that is imposed on the divers down time and is practical relative to the depth we have a built in safety margin of available air with a single air source diver. If we add an attached alternate air source we are burdening them with a bit more equipment.

We typically do not train for fresh clear water dives with a smooth sandy bottom. We anticipate the worst conditions possible and prepare for worst-case scenarios. In your entire career you may never need a carried alternate air source. But if you do, even once, and you do not have it, where is your next breath coming from?

How long does it take for your backup diver to reach you? Will that diver be coming with air immediately available if it is needed? Not all teams have voice communication available and stuff happens and a voice comms system can quit. Do you have a backup plan or any plan if a diver signals an emergency and needs help?

Do you dive with a redundant air SOURCE available or a diver carried or redundant air SUPPLY?

Consider having BOTH.

Do you consider it important to have another available source of air on site and ready for delivery to a diver underwater?

Minimum Equipment rarely the best option...

Contingency cylinders –

If your team uses this method, how often do you train for deployment? How long should it take for a backup diver to reach the primary diver with air, in an emergency?

How long can you hold your breath?



If you do not dive with a redundant source, do you at least have a contingency cylinder rigged and sitting by the backup diver? Do you leave it on or off?

If he has to

maneuver a cylinder, how does the Backup Diver find the Primary Diver and stay in contact with the surface?

How often do you practice this skill as a team? What is your standard for mastery, your time requirement, and your acceptable measure of time for this to happen?

How long DOES it take for the backup diver to get air to the primary diver?

Depends doesn't it?

- How long is the search rope?
- How much does the depth change?
- What debris barriers might need to be overcome?



We need to have at least some way to measure the need. So imagine you are the Primary Diver wrapped up in fishing line and just had a catastrophic air failure. You signal for help and wait...

How long can you hold your breath?

Stand up. If you try this with others, give each other some room. Have someone with a stopwatch time you. On GO, everyone take a deep breath and hold it as long as you can. When you have to breathe, hold up your hand and the person timing you will call out times.

Some of you may do really well and others not so good. But, this was not a real test of your breath holding skills relative to your needs.

Before you rest up completely (less than 60 seconds), everyone stay standing and give each other some room.

Now do 30 seconds of jumping jacks and try that again!

On GO, everyone take a deep breath and hold it as long as you can. When you have to breathe, hold up your hand and the person timing you will call out times.

Now compare the differences! Already oxygen depleted, a minimal amount of work and then forced to hold your breath; makes things a bit more interesting doesn't it?

If you were underwater near the end of your search rope and became impossibly entangled and while trying to get out found yourself out of air, do you know how long you will have to hold your breath before someone reaches you with an air supply you can access?

You should. The maximum time you set as your required skill mastery should be the shortest time recorded after the second drill!

EQUIPMENT

There is no question that team safety can be improved if your dive gear is standardized.

However, we have to recognize that some teams do not have the funds for that. That does not mean that your equipment configuration cannot be standardized. So if everyone has the same thing, if not the same brand, color etc. and it is stowed or secured in the same area of each diver then standardized equipment configuration can be done with little or no additional cost.

REQUIRED

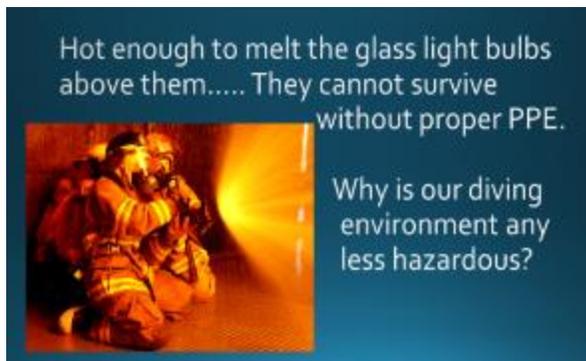
- Mask
- Fins
- Regulators
 - **A primary cylinder of at least 80 cubic feet** when filled to its service pressure
- Redundant Air SUPPLY
- Buoyancy Compensator
- Instrumentation
- Exposure Protection
- Weight Systems
- 3 Cutting Tools minimum!

- PFD's for surface support System
- Ropes, carabineers, clips
- Dive flags, medical etc.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Face Mask
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pony Cylinder 13cf Min up to 50', 30cf Min over 50'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRY SUITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U/W Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting devices should be DIFFERENT from each other.

There are three pieces of equipment that teams typically argue against because of the cost. These are dry suits, FFMs and communication systems.

Each of these things have risk reduction value. So arguing against them is stupid.



Drysuits are ONLY fully protective for US if they include a Dry Hood and dry gloves, AND are used in conjunction WITH a FFM or helmet. The goal is for our divers

to be FULLY ENCAPSULATED. Cost wise, Drysuits and FFMS are the least best but most practical for PSD teams. (The alternative is drysuit and a sealed helmet.)

One of the reasons you may have trouble with funding is you are calling them by the wrong names.

Firefighters do not enter into a burning building unless they are wearing bunker gear and SCBA. Properly worn, no bare skin is exposed and the firefighter breathes clean air.

Dive Gear
or
PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT?

ALL of that gear is identified and recognized as PPE: Personal Protective Equipment.

Quit asking for dry suits and FFMs and put together your PPE requirements.

Why? Consider where we work when we dive.

~ **We dive in water column**

- How do you know the quality of the water?
- What bacteria or protozoans are in it?
- If you can be infected through absorption?
- If you can be infected through a break in your skin?
- If you can be infected through ingestion?
- If you can be infected through inhalation?
- Is a column of gas leaking from a fuel tank?

DID YOU KNOW the HIV virus can live **outside** the human body? Did you know it lives LONGER WHEN WET?!

We dive in the water column but **we WORK in the sediment layer.** It does not matter what chemical, mineral or metal we name as a contaminate; if it is heavier than water, it is in the sediment and it is where WE WORK.

If ANY of those chemicals were spilled on dry land, is there ANY Emergency First Response department that would allow ANY of their employees to mitigate the hazard WITHOUT PROPER and APPROPRIATE PPE? What precautions would be taken if it were an UNKNOWN chemical?

Who would allow a medic to work on patients *without wearing gloves* or their LE to patrol *without body armor* or firefighters to fight fire *without bunker gear*?

When you choose to dive without proper PPE for the environment, YOU assume the risk. For many years we

have gotten away with it. Few instances of illness or death have been tracked to water contamination or exposure while in the water. **That does NOT mean it has not occurred or will not happen. Think back and it is likely that you may remember a time where you had a cut get infected and took a long time to heal AFTER you made a dive. OR within a week of diving you called in sick to work because you had a "stomach bug".**

Our society has created even more pollutants and some bacteria and virus strains have become tolerant or even immune to traditional medications.

You MUST recognize the risk and if you are not diving with full PPE, start working on a progress path that will get it for you.

TRAINING

Monthly team training **as a minimum is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

Train IN *your* water. Practice in clear water swimming pools when testing new gear or performing skills or conducting water comfort drills. Don't get complacent about training and allow yourselves to over use clear water just because it is easier and more convenient.

DEVELOP BETTER WATER COMFORT

Developing water comfort for our divers is something we might be doing in a few small ways without knowing it. But over the last few years, water comfort specifically taught through definitive skill sets is improving diver's abilities to function in higher stress situations.

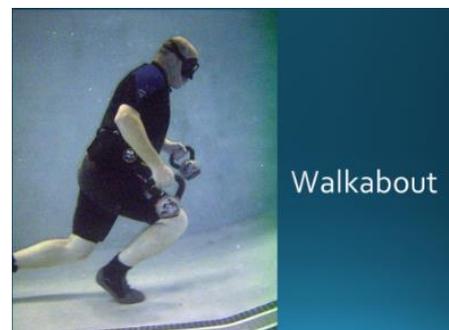
When we have new or limited skills divers we tend to do a lot of training that is "safe". By that I mean we purposefully try not to scare the divers or make them uncomfortable while they are supposed to be performing tasks underwater.



We go to a training lake where we have some visibility or work in a pool on skills that will translate to the river or lake. We protect the newbies from the scary side of our work while building their confidence. That is a good thing to do. But we forget that our older divers can sometimes use some confidence building themselves.



Developing water comfort skills and setting performance levels will build better divers without adding much to your cost of training and in most cases will utilize the equipment you already own. It is one of the least expensive and most rewarding types of team training you can do on your own.



With real water comfort comes a greater ability to control panic.

Panic is usually something we can never add to a list as a cause of death. It is a subjective action that would have to be either witnessed or reported. We cannot see in zero visibility and once drowned, the victim cannot report to us. However we CAN assume that panic WILL occur especially if an event suddenly becomes life threatening.

Our worst case scenarios almost always include “trapped and runs out of air”. Your Primary Diver dislodges his FFM mask, can’t communicate, partially trapped, and needs time to correct problem.

How long could you control panic while working on a life-threatening problem?

IMPROVE BASIC SCUBA MASTERY

With no national standard, there is a lack of entry-level qualifications to be a Public Safety Diver. We can all agree that scuba begins with basic open water scuba training. That is our mutual foundation and that foundation is based on recreational diving. As such, when we take on new team members to dive we require them to be scuba certified. They come to us as recreational divers.

What we do not seem to do is recognize – at this level – the disparity in skills, experience and quality of training those new team members may have compared to experienced dive team members. But we need divers so

we welcome new scuba divers into our ranks and then teach them what they need to know

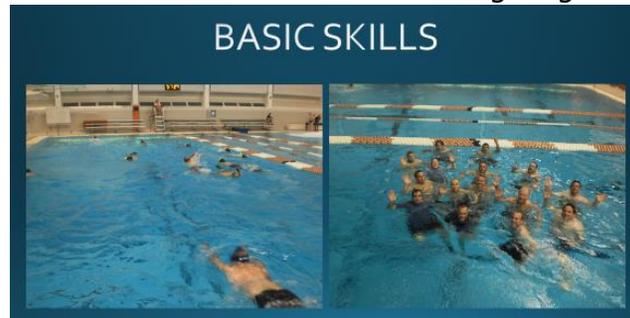
This works out most of the time but I am not sure it works out in a way that is actually beneficial to the team or the diver. A new candidate to your team may have just completed an Open Water training class or may have a certification that is 15 years old and a logbook that matches. They may have an advanced certification and “been a diver” for 20 years or more. But does this mean they are or ever were experienced divers?

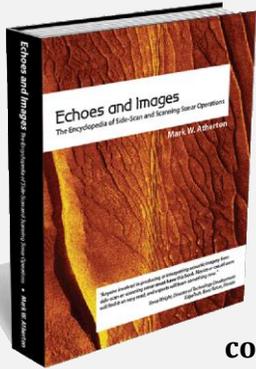
It is this entry-level step into Public Safety Diving that is missing. We have no standard that offers a path to become a Public Safety Diver yet it is not outside the norm for a team to take on an Open Water certified diver, give them a team t-shirt and make them one. In that instant, that new diver became a Public Safety Diver.

Does it mean that they have the skills of other Public Safety Divers and the ability to do the job? It doesn’t take that long to get them we and start their training, But did the come to you with ANY skills that will afford them the ability to stave off panic in zero visibility or perform self-rescue if they get into trouble?

How can we measure that?
Better yet, why do we NOT measure that?

There must be a qualification – a prerequisite skills requirement that sets the tone and measures the scuba skills and abilities of those new Public Safety Divers. It is not enough to need warm bodies and take on whoever is willing to join. We must be more responsible than that.





A three-day college credited, SAR SONAR course is being offered through Northwestern Michigan College in June 2015.

Focused at side-scan and scanning sonar operations, the program concentrates on acoustics, data interpretation, hands on data collection - and how to conduct a sonar search the RIGHT way!.

Your team may have the sonar equipment, but do they have the training to generate the best data set possible and ensure 100% coverage? You'll learn more about SONAR and acoustics in three days then you could ever imagine.... GUARANTEED!

A copy of the book, Echoes and Images, The Encyclopedia of Side-Scan and Scanning Sonar Operations is provided to every attendee.

For more information on this program, contact sonartrainingsolutions@gmail.com, or markwatherton@hotmail.com

When we look at the job of a Public Safety Diver, **the skills needed to survive can be intense.** I think there is resistance in recognizing the necessity for good or extraordinary basic scuba skills because those are recognized as recreational scuba skills. But guess what – they still apply and practicing them is FREE.

Consider just clearing a standard scuba mask. Can you do it? Can you do it with a single breath of air or does it take

you an extra breath? Either way is usually considered acceptable for a recreational scuba diver.

As a Public Safety Diver, if that is your level of mastery does that teach you anything? What if I asked you to fully flood and clear your mask three times on one breath of air? Could you do it?

What if I told you that the only way you could begin entry level PSD training was to fully flood and clear your mask **six times on one breath** of air at depth, ascend and then clear your snorkel without lifting your head out of the water?

Could you do it?

If you find the idea daunting, is it because you are unsure of your own skills? Will you just write it off as impossible? Are you afraid of embarrassing yourself? After all, you have been diving for years. You can clear a mask just fine. Right?

You will always be as good as you are right now unless you actively work to improve your skills.

If you are unwilling to try and fail and repeat until you can master the skill, you are going to be one of “those guys” on the team who know everything but will eventually fall behind all of the newer divers who worked to advance their skills.

No one is expected to pass this “simple” mastery challenge the first attempt.

It takes TIME AND PRACTICE.

Ok. I get it. You might think it is a stupid drill. Why would you even consider it worthy of PSD training? What could this level of mastery of a simple recreational scuba skill *possibly* teach a PSD?

Air/Gas Management.

How much air do you need to clear your mask? If you let a **single bubble escape**, you used too much.

Time Management.

If you take your time performing the skill because you have to think about it too much, **you are wasting valuable time.**

Breath Control.

As you progress through the skill it takes air. You will begin to feel the need to breathe early on but as you progress you will learn to ignore the impulse. When you reach this first level of mastery, that ability will be tested AND you will still have to deal with having either the skills or air reserves to clear your snorkel.

That recognition and ability to KNOW you can ignore the impulse to breathe; to perhaps exhale a very small bubble first to fool your body and buy yourself one or two more seconds IS the ability to recognize and begin to **control** the **early signs of PANIC! How important will those extra seconds be if you are running out of options?**



If you need a different term to understand, call it building **PANIC RESISTANCE.**

HERE IS THE SECRET → The more you practice these skills, the better you will get at them. The better you get at them, the longer you will be able to handle a stress load underwater and work through a problem.

How long will it take for an alternate air supply to reach you? Water Comfort drills that test your mastery of specific skills and challenge you underwater will buy you extra time to either work out your problem or wait for air to come to you.

We can agree that with an increased awareness of safety issues we can reduce the negative consequences of risk. We must take a much more proactive role in advancing our own safety and reevaluate the way we perceive and accept risk. There is always room for improvement in

training, equipment and skills. It is when we choose to pay less attention to details and less attention on the potential outcomes that we take on unnecessary risk.

Ultimately though it is up to you.

Next year, will we still be talking with you, or about you?

Be Safe ~





Hyperventilation-Induced Blackout

Lifesaving Resources / April 26, 2014

**Shallow Water Blackout (SWB)
vs.
Hyperventilation Induced Blackout (HIB)**
Gerald Dworkin gerald@lifesaving.com

There has been a great deal of confusion and mixed messages pertaining to Shallow Water Blackout, prolonged breath holding, and blackout induced by hyperventilation and prolonged breath holding. For the purpose of clarification, we will be using the term Hyperventilation-Induced Blackout (HIB) to describe the incidence of blackout induced by hyperventilation and prolonged breath holding.

The confusion is that the term "shallow water blackout" (SWB) has been used to describe any case of unexplained loss of consciousness. In reality, SWB is actually a problem experienced by breath-hold divers traveling vertically through a substantial depth range. Descending through the water column compresses the gas in the lungs, driving more gas into the blood, which increases the amount of oxygen available to be consumed. As the breath-hold diver ascends through the water column the blood oxygen level falls much faster than it would without the vertical excursion. And, since the relative pressure change is greatest in the shallowest water, it is normal for blackout to occur in the final state or just after surfacing.

Extended Breath-Holding....

The Aquatics Community needs to accept the fact that breath-holding is part of all aquatic activities. But, we need to urge caution on the part of swimmers

(competitive and recreational), coaches, first responders, lifeguards, residential pool owners, parents, and aquatic facility managers and operators, that extended breath-holding, preceded by excessive hyperventilation (ventilating the lungs in excess of metabolic need) is safe if it is limited to the equivalent of no more than two full ventilatory exchanges (two full inhalation/exhalation cycles). Limited hyperventilation will increase breath-hold time without delaying the urge to breathe (driven by carbon dioxide levels in the blood).

Supervision....

We need to encourage supervisors (coaches, lifeguards, facility operators) to carefully scan the surface, as well as under the surface, as many HIB victims may float motionless at the surface, or may submerge, dependent upon several variables. And, that the victim floating at the surface may appear to be moving due to water movement, splashing, etc.

Risk Management....

Prolonged breath-holding does not necessarily need to be banned. But, we need to stress the importance of safeguarding participants while they are engaged in this type of activity. But, if the facility is unable to safeguard the swimmer while he/she is engaged in this activity, then that activity should be prohibited. This is a basic tenant of Risk Management in that we REMOVE or WARN of the HAZARD, and we either SAFEGUARD or PROHIBIT the RISK.

Emergency Resuscitation Protocols....

The proper response to a hyperventilation-induced blackout incident is to rescue the victim from the water

and to immediately obtain a patent airway using either a head-tilt or a jaw-thrust maneuver.

Assess the victim's breathing, and if the victim is in respiratory arrest, then immediate positive pressure ventilation should be provided.

Check the pulse, and if the victim is in cardiac arrest, then immediate CPR should be administered, and an AED should be obtained and attached. If the victim has a shockable rhythm, as assessed by the AED, then a shock should be administered, and CPR continued if the victim remains in cardiac and respiratory arrest.

It should be noted that if the HIB victim is removed from the water and is assessed to be in cardiac arrest, it is typically due to the fact that the victim's distress went unrecognized for up to several minutes - long enough for the onset of cardiac arrest.

Oxygen Administration....

Drowning is a hypoxic event, regardless of the cause. Positive pressure ventilation should be administered via mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-nose, or mouth-to-mask. Lifeguards and other First Responders should be trained in the use of a Bag-Valve-Mask (BVM) Resuscitator which, if used correctly, will provide 21% oxygen concentration to the patient with each ventilation, versus 16% as administered via mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-nose, or mouth-to-mask.

Lifeguards and other First Responders should also be trained and equipped with oxygen administration equipment (oxygen tank and regulator). The oxygen administration equipment should be attached to the BVM resuscitator, with the oxygen flowing at 15 lpm, which

therefore provides 100% oxygen concentration during the administration of positive pressure ventilation.

Compression-Only CPR....

It should be noted that CPR includes the administration of chest compressions in combination with rescue breathing (positive pressure ventilation). The American Heart Association is advocating compression-only CPR for victims of sudden cardiac arrest (SCI) and CPR courses are being conducted throughout the U.S. teaching the lay public how to perform compression-only CPR. However, this procedure is only designed for the SCI patient whose lungs, blood and brain are already oxygenated prior to the onset of the cardiac arrest.

To the contrary, a drowning victim, regardless of the cause, unless the victim suffered an SCI in the water, his/her cardiac arrest onset would have occurred as a result of the victim's respiratory arrest, and the victim is therefore hypoxic. Compression-only CPR is ineffective for the drowning victim and full CPR (positive pressure ventilation in combination with chest compressions), AED use, and oxygen administration is required to provide the victim with the best chance for a successful outcome.

We are encouraging the following reminder:

**If DRY - COMPRESSIONS apply.
If WET - give BREATHS and PRESS**

Credit & Additional Information....

Thanks are extended to the NDPA and to Neal W. Pollock, Ph.D., Research Director for Divers Alert Network (www.diversalertnetwork.org) and to the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (www.ndpa.org).

DOG TRICK – HOW TO DESTROY YOUR DRYSUIT

November 2014 Kathy Long, DUI Web Systems Manager

Want to know the fastest ways to annihilate your drysuit? We've racked together a list that will absolutely demolish your favorite piece of scuba gear. How do we know? Just 51 years of experience, that's all. So unless you like buying lots of drysuits (and we don't mind it at all if you do), ***we suggest you do not follow this list:***

Hang Your Drysuit in the Sun

This is a great way to not only color fade the fabric but it will quickly deteriorate the latex seals. It will also cause the waterproof zipper tape to become dry and brittle because it, too, is made of rubber. Prolonged exposure to the sun or ultraviolet light will accelerate the aging process of your drysuit. It's just like the damage sun does to your face but only on your drysuit.

Don't Wax Your Drysuit Zipper

This is the best way to damage your zipper. It will cause brittleness in the tape especially the sealing surface and it will be really hard to zip. Remember replacing your waterproof zipper is the most expensive repair of a drysuit. For more on drysuit zipper care visit Your Waterproof Zipper is the Heart and Soul of Your Drysuit.

Trifecta of Zipper Abuse

Want to replace your zipper long before it's due? Here are three things you can do:

1. Muscle in and out of the drysuit – this can make the ends of the zipper split.
2. Don't unzip the zipper all the way.
3. Grab the zipper pull and yank, yank, yank.

How To Ruin or Shorten the Life of Your Drysuit

- **Don't Clean Contaminates Off Your Suit After Diving**
 - Don't bother cleaning contaminants like hydrocarbons, i.e. fuels off your drysuit following a dive. This will degrade the drysuit and its components.
- **Apply Silicone Spray to Exhaust Valve Components**
 - It causes damage to the silicone components and can result in a leaking valve.
- **Don't Rinse Your Drysuit with Freshwater After your Dive**
 - Why bother? It only creates corrosion on the suit especially the valves and zipper. Salt water stains make your suit look cool – NOT! Plus it also causes your drysuit to smell bad which is a



Don't hang your drysuit in the sun

side effect

your dive buddy will surely not appreciate.

- **Dive in a Chlorinated Pool Without Getting Your Drysuit Wet First**

- When diving in a chlorinated pool don't bother to get it wet first with fresh water. We all know that rinsing it first with fresh water will lessen the absorption of



**DUI ZipStick \$8
New Zipper \$366
You choose!**

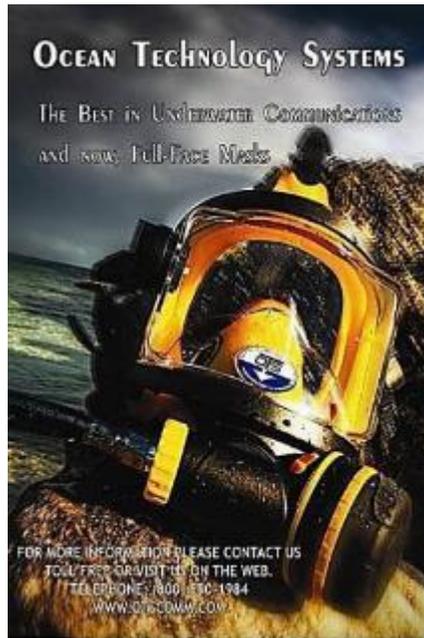
chlorinated water from the pool. Not rinsing it first will accelerate the discoloration of the suit and deterioration of the fabric.

➤ **Careless Suit Storage**

You can do a lot of damage if you take a devil-may-care approach at storage. Here are just a few:

- Store your drysuit with kinks in the zipper – This will cause weakness and breakage of the zipper.
- Store heavy objects on top of your drysuit – This again causes kinks and/or punctures in your drysuit. Sure to ruin your next dive.
- Store your drysuit for easy rodent access – Rodents like to chew through the material making nice nesting areas.
- Store your suit next to the water heater, clothes dryer, etc. – Motors generate ozone which loves to eat away at rubber like your latex seals. The same with an engine room on a dive boat. Don't leave it in there once your suit is dry.

IF you love your drysuit, **DON'T DO THESE THINGS!** Read the DUI Owner's Manual on the best way to care for your drysuit. It's free and available for [download on our website](#). With proper care your drysuit will last years.



NEWS

South Korean Recovery Divers Feel With Their Hands for Bodies

4/22/14 BY [REUTERS](#)

SEOUL (Reuters) - The confirmed death toll from a sunken South Korean ferry is rising faster as divers penetrate the dark, cold waters inside, feeling for children's bodies with their hands as they swim through a maze of cabins, corridors and upturned decks.



Relatives of missing passengers, who were on South Korean ferry Sewol which sank in the sea off Jindo, pray towards the sea next to Buddhist monks at a port where family members of missing passengers are gathered at in Jindo April 23, 2014. ISSEI KATO/REUTERS

The divers, with oxygen and communications lines trailing, can only see a few inches in front of them as they search areas of the ship where the children were told to stay for their own safety.

"We are trained for hostile environments, but it's hard to be brave when we meet bodies in dark water," diver Hwang Dae-sik told Reuters.

The divers can work for nearly an hour as long as the oxygen lines do not snag on sharp corners of the ship's internal structure. With cumbersome oxygen tanks on their backs instead, they can work for about 20 minutes before an alarm bell sounds.

The Sewol sank last Wednesday on a routine trip from the port of Incheon, near Seoul, to the southern island of Jeju.

Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers on a high school outing. Only 174 people have been rescued and the remainder are all presumed to have drowned. The confirmed death toll on Wednesday was 128, many found at the back of the ship on the fourth deck.

Hwang said his team had retrieved 14 bodies so far. "We have to touch everything with our hands. This is the most grueling and heartbreaking job of my career," he said.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 69, and other crew members have been arrested on negligence charges. Lee was also charged with undertaking an "excessive change of course without slowing down".

Several crew members, including the captain, left the ferry as it was sinking,

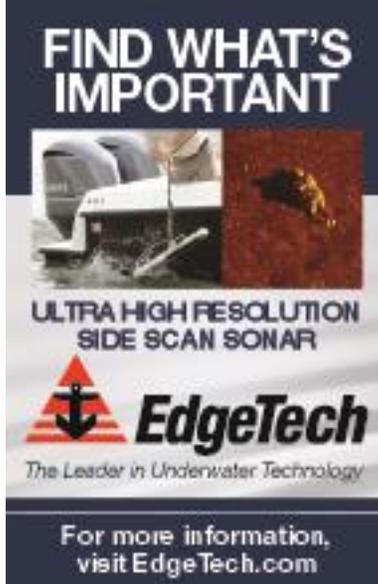


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witnesses have said, after passengers were told to stay in their cabins. President Park Geun-hye said on Monday that instruction was tantamount to an "act of murder".

Many of the children did not question their elders, as is customary in hierarchical Korean society, and paid for their obedience with their lives.

Lee was not on the bridge when the ship turned.

Navigation was in the hands of a 26-year old third mate who was in charge for the first time on that part of the journey, according to crew members.

In a confused exchange between the sinking Sewol and maritime traffic control released by the government, the crew said the ship was listing to port.

"Make passengers wear life jackets and get ready in case you need to abandon ship," traffic control said. The Sewol answered: "It's difficult for the passengers to move now."

Hwang stressed the danger of the job of searching for corpses in such tight confines.

"It threatens health and safety," he said. "But we are trying really hard. The entire nation is worried."

Divers begin pond search in missing woman inquiry

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/story/2014-12-09/pond-search-connected-to-missing-woman-investigation/>
12/09/2014

Police divers are searching in a pond near Reading, in the hope of finding items which may help with a missing person investigation.

Catherine Nee was last seen by her family in 2002.



Police divers search deep woodland ponds for woman missing since 2002 after tip-off

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2867025/Police-divers-search-deep-woodland-ponds-woman-missing-2002-tip-off.html>

9 Dec 2014 By [JULIAN ROBINSON FOR MAILONLINE](#)

- **Ponds at Burghfield, Berkshire searched in hunt for missing Catherine Nee**
- **Ms Nee was 32 years old when she was last seen by family 12 years ago**
- **It was initially thought that she had simply moved away to another area**
- **But a missing persons investigation was launched a decade later in 2012**
- **Man arrested on suspicion of murder last year but released without charge**



Police divers have searched two woodland ponds in the hunt for missing Catherine Nee (pictured)

Police divers are today searching two woodland ponds in a hunt for a woman who went missing 12 years ago.

Officers investigating the disappearance of Catherine Nee turned their attention to the deep ponds at Burghfield, Berkshire after receiving a tip-off.

Ms Nee was 32 years old when she was last seen by her family, from whom she was estranged, in 2002 and it was initially thought that she had simply moved away to another area.



However police launched a missing persons investigation a decade later and a 48-year-old man from the Thames Valley area was arrested on suspicion of her murder last February. He was later released without charge.

The grandmother-of-six, who would now be aged 44 years, was originally from Reading, Berkshire, but was living in the Ilfracombe area of Devon at the time of her disappearance.

Detective Inspector Kevin Mahon, from Thames Valley Police, said: 'Catherine became estranged from her family 14 years ago and in that time they have made attempts to try to find her but to no avail.

'They have constantly wondered what happened to her. They turned to Thames Valley Police for assistance in 2012 to try to trace her and our investigation has led us to this point.



'The Thames Valley Police specialist search and rescue team is conducting a search of two ponds in the Burghfield woods on the basis of this information.

'We do not know what we may find, but the hope is that we will discover items relating to Catherine's disappearance.

'In the meantime we are continuing to appeal to anyone who knew Catherine, who was also known as Kathy, or has any information of her whereabouts, to get in touch.'

Officers investigating the disappearance of Catherine Nee turned their attention to deep ponds at Burghfield, Berkshire after receiving a tip-off.

Specialist police divers descended on the scene today. Ms Nee was 32 years old when she was last seen by her family. The grandmother-of-six, who would now be aged

44 years, was originally from Reading, Berkshire, but was living in the Ilfracombe area of Devon at the time of her disappearance.

Police said that Ms Nee was last seen in Ilfracombe, Devon, where she was living with a partner.

Early investigations by detectives in 2012 failed to find any trace of Ms Nee, also known as Kathy, after she disappeared in 2002.

She left the family home in Dee Park, Reading, Berkshire, after a 'difference of opinion' with relatives. Her 71-year-old mother Nellie's last contact with her daughter was in a series of brief letters.

Police said that Ms Nee was last seen in Ilfracombe, Devon, where she was living with a partner. She has six grandchildren who she had never met.





Her mother, Mrs Nee, said at the time: 'I'm not getting any younger. I want her home and so do the rest of the family.'

Police say they hope the search will uncover 'items relating to Ms Nee's disappearance'.

Police launched a missing persons investigation in 2012 and a 48-year-old man from the Thames Valley area was arrested on suspicion of her murder last February. He was later released without charge.

Ms Nee left the family home in Dee Park, Reading, Berkshire, after a 'difference of opinion' with relatives 'I think about her all the time. She is always in my head and always will be.'

'I pray every night that one day she will come home. Her grandchildren certainly want to meet her and I would love her to meet them.'

'I would throw my arms around her if she came home tomorrow.'

'Her family is desperate to trace her so we urge anyone with information to get in touch.'

Police have yet to reveal where the new tip-off to search the ponds at Burghfield had come from although it was known that it was not from anyone currently in prison.



Police divers find shoes in missing woman search

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2014-12-10/police-divers-find-shoes-in-missing-woman-search>

10 December 2014

Police divers searching two woodland ponds in a hunt for a woman presumed murdered who went missing 12 years ago have found footwear which may have belonged to her.

Detectives revealed the find a day after searches began at a pond the size of a football pitch in secluded woodland.

However, officers were unsure if the footwear was linked to the disappearance of Catherine Nee.

Ms Nee was aged 32 years when she was last seen by her family, from whom she was estranged, in 2002 and it was initially thought she had simply moved away to another area.

However police launched a missing persons investigation a decade later and a 48-year-old man from the Thames Valley area was arrested on suspicion of her murder last February, but was later released without charge.

The grandmother-of-six, who would now be aged 44 years, was originally from Reading, Berks., but was living in the Ilfracombe area of Devon at the time of her disappearance.

Police were expected to continue searching the woods at Burghfield in Berkshire after receiving a new lead in the case.

Detective Inspector Kevin Mahon said the newly-discovered footwear would have to be analysed to find out if it was relevant to the case.

Det. Insp. Mahon said officers were working to discover if the footwear was the same size as Ms Nee wore.

"I can't say if it's going to be relevant at this time," said the detective.

"It's very difficult to know what she was wearing at the time she went missing because we don't know at what point she actually went missing."

The officer said poor underwater visibility had made searching the pond a tricky task for divers but that they would remain in the area until he was satisfied it had been thoroughly scoured.

Det. Insp. Mahon refused to go into details of how officers were tipped off to search the wooded area.

"Our inquiries have led us to this area," he said.

He added that police were not given specific information about the ponds but that they seemed an obvious place to search.



"It's an area where there's a possibility that something could be disposed of," said Det. Insp. Mahon.

"We have still got some work to do to satisfy myself that we have followed up that line of inquiry."

The officer said no other searches were planned beyond the woodland but added: "If we get some new information coming forward we will see where it takes us."

Police: Driver in high-speed chase had sword, threatened to kill police officers

<http://wnyt.com/article/stories/s3661178.shtml>

12/28/2014 By: Steve Flamis

VIDEO ON SITE

COLONIE – A Loudonville man led police on a high-speed chase through three counties, threatened to kill police officers, and brandished a sword before he was shot by a state trooper Friday, police alleged.

Michael J. Messina, 19, called 911 from his cell phone during the pursuit and told a Colonie Police dispatcher that he had a plan to "shoot police officers," Colonie Police Lt. Robert Winn said.

"He indicated numerous times that his intent, while he was fleeing from police, was to kill as many police officers as he could," Winn said. "He did indicate that he had a fully-loaded AK-47 and a revolver."

It all began at about 6:30 p.m. when Messina threw coffee and an energy drink container at a State Police car in the southbound lanes of the Northway in the Town of

Halfmoon, State Police said. The trooper chased Messina at speeds approaching 100 miles per hour before breaking off the pursuit where the



Northway ends at State Route 20 in the Town of Guilderland, State Police said.

"YOU WANT TO DIE?"

About a half-hour later, Messina robbed Smith's Colonie Wine and Liquor Store, 1701 Central Ave., State Police said. He allegedly stole a bottle of vodka, and threatened two employees with a sword.

"I just yelled at him, 'Hey, what the hell are you doing? Who's going to pay for that bottle?'" co-owner Nick Patel said. "He takes a sword out, and he's like, 'You want the bottle, or you want to die?'"

Police soon spotted Messina's White Volkswagen Jetta on Central Ave. and resumed the chase. He allegedly struck one uninvolved vehicle that was trying to get out of his way. No one was injured.

As the chase continued west, Messina allegedly made the ominous phone call to 911. Then, at about 8:00 p.m., on Interstate 890 West in Rotterdam, police deflated his front tires using a stinger device.

TROOPER OPENS FIRE

Messina bailed out of his car with the sword from the liquor store robbery, State Police Captain Scott Coburn said. Messina ran down an embankment and crossed a stream with a trooper in close pursuit.

"Messina, on the opposite bank, turns around suddenly with a sword above his head as if to strike the trooper," Coburn said. "The trooper fired one round from his division-issued weapon."

The bullet struck Messina in the abdomen, Coburn said. Troopers provided first aid at the scene before Messina was rushed to Albany Medical Center Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

Though Coburn said Messina was listed in stable condition, Messina's mother told NewsChannel13 her son is actually in critical condition. A nursing supervisor did not return a phone call seeking clarification. Messina's mother told a reporter she has a lot to say about what happened to her son, but she is not ready to speak just yet. She provided a photo of her son before leaving to visit him at the hospital.

"MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES"

Investigators did not find the guns Messina allegedly claimed to have, but State Police divers did find the sword at the bottom of the stream, Coburn said. The motive for what happened remained unclear.

"We're not going to comment on a motive now," Coburn told reporters. "There are some mental health issues that we are aware of in this case, but I can't comment any further on that either."

Messina will face charges of robbery, menacing, possession of a weapon, unlawfully fleeing police, petit larceny, and numerous traffic violations in the Town of Colonie, according to Winn, the police lieutenant.

Additional charges in other jurisdictions are forthcoming, Winn said. Schenectady County District Attorney Robert Carney has been advised of the situation, and the investigation is continuing.

Divers recover missing infant's body in Withlacoochee River

http://www.baynews9.com/content/news/baynews9/news/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2015/1/5/crews_continue_overn.html
January 5, 2015

DADE CITY --

Divers have recovered the body of an infant who went missing in the Withlacoochee River on Sunday, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office said.

Ten divers searching in 64-degree water found 7-month-old Elijah Wilson around 10 a.m. Monday. He had been with his uncle late Sunday when the



Personnel from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission searched overnight for a 7-month infant who went missing in the Withlacoochee River

pickup truck they were sitting in rolled into the dark water.

The body of the uncle, 46-year-old Jeffery Stock, was recovered Sunday night.

According to the sheriff's office, Stock was sitting in the bed of a Ford pickup parked along the river at Ranch Road and Auton Road. He was holding the infant with the tailgate down when the truck rolled down an embankment and into the river.

Authorities said Stock tried to jump from the tailgate with Elijah, but instead wound up underwater, pinned beneath the truck.

The father of the baby jumped into the water, but was not able to reach his child or his brother.

"There were multiple people who went in the water in an attempt to conduct their own rescue," said sheriff's office Lt. Mike Jenkins. "But due to the tragic circumstances, it appears the man and, likely, the 7-month-old child were trapped under the vehicle, and it would have been almost impossible to retrieve them."

A search by personnel from the sheriff's office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission went through the night with crews in boats looking along the river with lights set up. Strong currents and alligators on the banks



complicated matters.

About 25 family members assisted authorities in the search, officials said. Family members and authorities held a moment of silence when the infant's body was recovered.

Family members had gathered Sunday for a cookout and later drove to the river to go fishing.

Authorities are calling the incident a "freak accident."

Police divers search Werribee River for weapons used in robbery

[HTTP://WWW.HERALDSUN.COM.AU/NEWS/LAW-ORDER/POLICE-DIVERS-SEARCH-WERRIBEE-RIVER-FOR-WEAPONS-USED-IN-ROBBERY/STORY-FNI0FEE2-1227178695977](http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/police-divers-search-werribee-river-for-weapons-used-in-robbery/story-fni0fee2-1227178695977)

JAN 08, 2015 REBEKAH CAVANAGH HERALD SUN

DIVERS searched the bed of the Werribee River for two guns used in a robbery where three bandits took one of Victoria's largest hauls.

An anonymous call to Crime Stoppers lead detectives to near the Riverbend Historical Park, Wyndham Vale, where they searched yesterday.

Two cars — one with stolen number plates — were found by divers. But there was no sign of the weapons reportedly dumped in the river following the December 1 robbery at the Horne St McDonald's car park in Sunbury.



**Police dive for guns in the Werribee River.
Picture: Kris Reichl**

Police refuse to reveal the figure stolen but said it was a “substantial” amount with at least five cash bags taken. Detective Sergeant David Woolfe, from the Armed Crime Squad, said police were committed to finding those behind the heist.

He could not rule out the culprits had inside information. No-one has been arrested and police are yet to identify any suspects.

“We've received information via an anonymous person at Crime Stoppers that the firearms from that incident may be located here,” Det-Sgt Woolfe said.

He could not say how accurate the tip-off was and urged the person who made the call to make contact with them again.

He said police believe the offenders are living in the western suburbs.

The search started near a concrete kayak's landing at 10am, but about 1pm, police moved their focus to another part of the river about 3km away.

The river search comes days after police revealed they were looking for the driver of a white SUV also believed to be connected to the case.

The Commodore used in the raid was found burnt out at Little River, near Werribee, and a white SUV was seen leaving that area and was also sighted driving past the McDonald's at the time of the robbery.

Police in Florida say father threw daughter, five, off Tampa Bay bridge

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/police-in-florida-say-father-threw-daughter-5-off-tampa-bay-bridge-9966338.html>

08 JANUARY 2015 ANDREW BUNCOMBE



Why? That was the question police officers in Florida were trying to answer on Thursday after they accused a man of throwing his five-year-old daughter from a bridge.

Police said John Jonchuck had been seen hurling his daughter, Phoebe, off a bridge over Tampa Bay in the early hours of Thursday morning. Police recovered the body of the girl from the water about 90 minutes later.

At a press conference on Thursday morning, St Petersburg Police Chief Tony Holloway said officers were unsure if Mr Jonchuck's daughter was alive at the time she was thrown from the Dick Misener Bridge. A post-mortem examination was being conducted on her body to try and provide officers with more information.

Yet Mr Holloway said police had little insight into a possible motive for the alleged crime. "I've been doing this job for 29 years and I don't even know what was going through this guy's mind," Mr Holloway said, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Reports said that Mr Jonchuck had previously been arrested several times for domestic violence but that charges had always been dropped. Despite that, Mr Jonchuck had legal custody of his daughter.

Mr Holloway said Mr Jonchuck had been spotted speeding by an officer who was heading home after his shift and then pursued him to the bridge, which is itself an approach to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The man got out of his car and the officer drew his weapon.

"The suspect started talking, but the officer didn't understand what he was saying," the police chief said. The man then walked over to the passenger's side door and pulled out a child, her face buried in his chest. Mr Jonchuck then threw the girl into the water, more than 60ft below.

The police officer climbed down a span of the bridge to try and locate the girl's body, other officers pursued Mr Jonchuck across the bridge. Police arrived on the scene

almost immediately and asked two fishermen for their assistance.

"He said, 'You know these waters – take me to where you think she'll possibly be'," Bobby Hay, one of the fishermen, later told reporters. "So we ran right over where the tide was going one way and the wind was breaking the opposite way. That's where I thought she'd be. We weren't far off."

The girl's body was recovered and she was declared dead at the scene. Mr Jonchuck has been charged with murder and fleeing the scene.

Neill Buchel murder: 'Jackass prankster chopped up and dumped in lake by pals'

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/neill-buchel-murder-jackass-prankster-4991089>

16 January 2015 By Henry Vaughan

Neill Buchel enjoyed taking part in painful and dangerous games with Scott Hunt and Chas Quye, who are accused of killing and dismembering him, a court heard.

A man whose chopped-up body parts were found dumped in a lake was [murdered](#) by friends after they played 'Jackass' style pranks on him, a court heard



The body of Phobe Jonchuck was recovered from the Tampa Bay on



Neill Buchel, 39, and drinking buddies Scott Hunt, 41, Chas Quye, 36, were inspired by the US television series, which features stars performing dangerous and painful stunts, it was said.

Some of the games, including putting chili powder on genitals and setting pubic hair on fire, would often result in injuries, a jury was told.

But the 'casual violence' took a macabre turn and Mr Buchel's severed left thigh was discovered at an East London nature reserve by a young fisherman in April last year. The rest of his [body](#) was recovered from White Hart Lakes in Dagenham more than a fortnight after he had been reported missing by his worried family.

The victim, known as 'Southy' was brutally beaten at Quye's flat before being cut into ten pieces and his dismembered body parts disposed of in a 'gruesome and callous' way, a jury was told.



Gruesome: A fisherman alerted police after spotting a human leg floating in a park lake in Dagenham, east London

Hunt and Quye, along with a third man Elvis Kwiatkowski, 36, are accused of the murder of the South African. They are standing trial at Blackfriars Crown Court alongside Colin Bushaway, 61, and Alan Quinn, 28 who, along with their three co-defendants, also face a charge of perverting the course of



Attack: The victim was brutally beaten at Quye's flat before being cut into ten pieces and his dismembered body parts disposed of, a jury at Blackfriars Crown Court in London was told.

justice by disposing of the body.

Prosecutor Sally O'Neill QC, told the jury that Mr Buchel had moved into a flat with Hunt after splitting from his wife in December 2013.

The housemates would often socialise with Quye, who lived in a block of flats next to their building.

Ms O'Neill said: "They would spend a lot of time together drinking a great deal and sometimes playing a game, which they called 'Jackass-style stunts', which is a reference to an American television series.

"These games would sometimes result in injuries to one of the parties and video footage was taken of that.

"It appears Mr Buchel was generally a willing participant in those games, while, you may



Evidence: Police found Mr Buchel's dismembered thigh in a lake, the court heard.

think, he often seemed to bear the brunt of them.

"They sometimes filmed the events using a mobile phone. The so-called pranks or stunts included such things as the use of chili powder on genitals, the burning of pubic hair and the insertion of items into the genital area."

But she explained that in December 2013, Mr Buchel was attacked by the two men and was hit around the face with dumbbell weights.

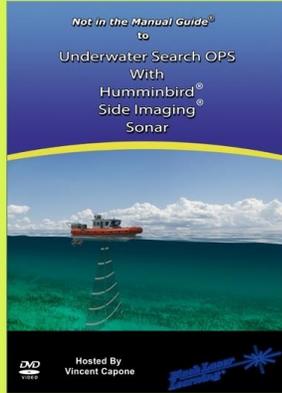
"It is the Crown's case that episode demonstrates the almost casual, but serious violence that Mr Hunt and Mr Quye were prepared to inflict on Mr Buchel," Ms O'Neill continued.

The jury were told that Mr Buchel had been drinking in the park with a group of friends on March 13 last year.

He ended up, extremely drunk at Quye's flat, where a number of others were present throughout the evening, including Quye, Hunt, Kwiatkowski and Quinn, it is claimed.

"Neill Buchan was rendered virtually helpless by drink and was a very soft target for the brutal and cowardly attack at the hands of those who professed to be his friends," Ms O'Neill said.

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One witness described seeing Mr Buchan on his knees in the sitting room, with his head completely covered by material. Quye and Kwiatowski were seen standing over him shouting abuse with Quye wielding a large rubber mallet, the court heard.

It is claimed Bushaway, who had a panelled van, was later called to the flat, where by this time Mr Buchel's lifeless body was in the bathroom.

Bushaway allegedly suggested they should dispose of the body, although did not take part in the dismemberment or removal of the remains.

Bradley Andison, 47, who is not standing trial after pleading guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice, was then called in to help, the court heard.

Mr Buchel was not seen alive after the night of 13 March last year and his worried ex-partner contacted police. A murder investigation was launched even before his left thigh turned up in the lake, found by a young fisherman who poked it with a stick after mistaking it for a dead fish.

Ms O'Neill said: "On 1 April 2014 a young fisherman who was walking around the lakes detected something he first thought was a dead fish.

"It turned out to be a human thigh. The police were informed and the area was searched by police divers and using police dogs.

"Over the next few days several other body parts were found in the same area - ten body parts.

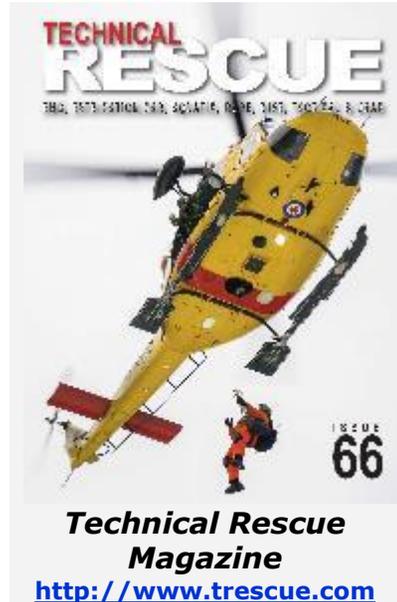
"The torso had been wrapped in a duvet and weighed down with stones.

"Other body parts appeared to have been wrapped in red curtain, which had come loose.

"They had clearly been in the water for some time, but all of the body was recovered, ten parts in all.

"That body was that of a man called Neil Buchel, who was last seen alive on the evening of 13 March last year and the Crown say he was in the company of the first three defendants Scot Hunt, Elvis Kwiatkowski and Chas Quye.

"In broad terms the allegation is while Neil Buchel was with those three men at Mr Quye's address, he was brutally assaulted by them and died of his injuries that night while still at that address."



The body parts were found to have multiple blunt force injuries most likely resulting from kicking or stamping, the court heard.

"There can be no doubt that those deliberately inflicted injuries on him were intended, at the very least, to cause very serious harm," Ms O'Neill added.

Hunt, of Dagenham, Quye, also from Dagenham, and Kwiatkowski of Royston, Hertfordshire, all deny murder. Hunt, Quye and Bushaway, along with Quinn, of Dagenham, deny conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Kwiatkowski and Andison, of Rochester, Kent, pleaded guilty to the charge.

Bushaway, of Eltham, southeast London, also denies an alternative charge of preventing a lawful burial.

The trial continues.

Mystery of the 60 bodies: Is serial killer responsible for corpses in Manchester's canals?

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/552283/Could-serial-killer-responsible-Manchester-60-canal-deaths>

January 16, 2015 By DOMINIC MIDGLEY

BODIES have been fished out of Manchester's network of canals at an average rate of around nine a year for the past seven years without anyone but the relatives of the deceased making much of a fuss.

But since the news of this remarkable death toll broke at the weekend following a Freedom of Information request to Greater Manchester Police, an almighty row has broken



Relatives are calling for a murder inquiry after student Souvik Pal was found in Bridgewater Canal

out involving a maverick professor of psychology, local councillors, bereaved families and police.

It revolves around the fact that not one of the 60 deaths has been recorded as a crime, with both police and coroners apparently satisfied that they were the result of accidents or suicide.

Confronted with this remarkable statistic

Craig Jackson, professor of psychology at Birmingham City University and an expert on spree killings, has suggested the idea that a serial killer could be on the loose.

"It is extremely unlikely that such an alarming number of bodies found in the canals is the result of accidents or suicides," he said. "Canals are not popular suicide spots, especially for men.

"They are, however, popular dumping sites. And water can be a sure way to erase DNA evidence."

"Suffolk strangler Steve Wright dumped some of his prostitute victims in water so any traces of him would be washed away."

"It is extremely unlikely that such an alarming number of bodies found in the canals is the result of accidents or suicides. "
Craig Jackson professor of psychology



There have been an alarming amount of bodies found in Manchester's canal network

A number of the corpses were found in stretches of water around Canal Street, home of many of the city's gay bars and restaurants.

This plus the fact that only two of the victims have been identified as female – though the gender of 27 of the victims has not been made public – and that the men are almost invariably in their late teens or early 20s has led to speculation of a sexual motive.

"I think the fact that several of these discoveries were made in Manchester's Gay Village could also be significant," says Professor Jackson.

"Do we have another 'gay slayer' like Colin Ireland [a serial killer who murdered five gay men in London in the 1990s] on the loose?"



The professor's theory is given credence by the fact that the Rochdale Canal's Lock 85, a well-known gay cruising area, is said to have been the site of six body finds in the past 18 months. Detective Chief Superintendent Russ Jackson, head of Greater Manchester Police's Serious Crime Division, was not impressed.

He said: "What is very important to bear in mind is that the cases have been

subject to separate investigations and there is no evidence to suggest these deaths are linked or were suspicious.

"These cases have then been presented at inquests and it is for the coroner to determine the cause of death. It should also be stressed that coroners do have the power to refer any deaths back to police if they suspect foul play and that has not happened."

But this has not been enough to reassure the "dozens of individuals", including a number of relatives of the deceased, who have contacted Professor Jackson this week to share their concerns over the spate of deaths, which in one 12-month period accounted for one third of all such fatalities nationwide.

Related articles

- [Police arrest Wetherspoons barmaid over gay 'banter'](#)
- [Detectives to meet professor over claims 'serial killer' is on the loose in Manchester](#)



Police divers scour the canal for Adam Pickup's body, which was later found under a railway arch

The grandfather of Indian student Souvik Pal has called for the police to open a murder inquiry into the death of the 18-year-old, who was found dead in Bridgewater Canal having been seen with a mystery man after leaving a nightclub.

Professor Jackson is not the first to have doubts about the official version of events. Locals have long harboured a number of theories to explain the deaths.

One of the most popular is that many of the dead are victims of a figure called The Pusher, who murders his targets by shoving them into the water.

Others speculate that a number of the dead have been the subject of gangland hits by one or other of the organised crime networks that have led to the city being dubbed "Gunchester".

Meanwhile Professor Jackson has been invited to meet representatives of GMP next week and he believes he can help.

"My role will be to emphasise new techniques that can help understand criminal behaviour, such as geographical profiling and other elements of investigative psychology which might prove useful," he said.

"Studies of predatory serial offenders show that isolated and secluded areas, such as waterways, populated by drunk or drugged individuals who are suggestible and compliant and who may be from minority groups can provide ideal circumstances for those committing serial crimes."

But not everyone is convinced.

Mancunian local councillor Pat Karney warned: "The professor needs to think about the effects on families who have lost loved ones. It's 100 per cent rubbish, knowing a lot of



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the cases concerned, particularly in the city centre.

"He needs to withdraw these stupid allegations because they are causing hurt and anguish for the families.



"I will be writing to the chancellor of his university. "If this is academic research then the taxpayers need their money back."

Car found in South Florida canal tied to 1978 case

<http://tbo.com/news/crime/car-found-in-south-florida-canal-tied-to-1978-case-20150123/>

January 23, 2015 The Associated Press

SUNRISE, Florida – Officials say they've recovered from a South Florida canal a car that a young couple was in when they disappeared more than 30 years ago.

The 1969 Dodge Cornet car was spotted Wednesday by a South Florida Water Management District employee who was doing routine maintenance work in Sunrise.

Authorities ran the vehicle identification number and confirmed it was connected to the missing-persons case of Dana Null, 15, and Harry Wade Atchison III, 19.

They were last seen leaving Atchison's house in October 1978. Detectives said the pair had been arguing after attending a Foreigner concert in Hollywood earlier that evening. Atchison got into his car and started to leave when Null flagged him down and got into the car.



Dana Null, boyfriend Harry Atchison last seen 36 years ago

They weren't seen again.

No bodies were found in the rusting orange car, and police divers searched the canal again Thursday, looking for clues.

Null was a freshman in high school when she disappeared. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children developed an age-processed image of Null a few years ago showing what she would have looked like at age 48.

Quick Clicks

- [Divers find human remains in canal where car discovered](#)
- [Car pulled from canal linked to 1978 missing persons case](#)

Divers search Sunrise canal where bones thought tied to 1978 disappearance found

<http://www.local10.com/news/divers-search-sunrise-canal-where-bones-thought-tied-to-1978-disappearance-found/30941384>

Jan 27 2015 Peter Burke, Managing Editor

SUNRISE, Fla. -Broward Sheriff's Office divers are once again searching a Sunrise canal where human remains believed to be linked to a 1978 missing persons case were discovered.

Dana Null, 15, and her boyfriend, Harry Atchison, were last seen getting into a car and driving away from a home after getting into an argument after a Foreigner concert on Oct. 7, 1978.

The [remains of Atchison's 1969 Dodge Coronet were pulled from the canal](#) along State Road 84, between 136th Avenue and International Parkway, last week.

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A worker with the South Florida Water Management District discovered the car after it got caught on some equipment.

Divers searched the water again Friday, [finding human bones and more parts of the car](#). BSO spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said the bones were taken to the medical examiner's office.

They were back at the canal Tuesday hoping to find more clues.

Local 10 News was there as a diver removed a green bag from the water and tossed it to detectives, who collected it as possible evidence.

'God wanted me to live': Missouri teen's 'miracle' recovery after underwater for 15 minutes

<http://www.today.com/news/missouri-teens-miracle-recovery-after-underwater-15-minutes-2D80479747>

Feb. 7, 2015 Elizabeth Murray **VIDEO ON SITE**

A 14-year-old Missouri boy who fell through an icy lake and was underwater for 15 minutes, with no pulse for nearly 45 minutes, has made a "miraculous" recovery, doctors said. Now, John Smith says he's fortunate to be alive.



Video: In this NBC News exclusive, 14-year-old John Smith talks about how he miraculously survived after falling through the ice of Lake Saint Louise and remaining underwater for nearly 15 minutes.

"There's no really any explanation but how God wanted me to live for a reason so i'm alive now," John told TODAY.

The eighth-grader was walking over an ice-covered Lake St. Louise with two friends when the trio fell through the ice. While one of the teens was able to swim back to shore, and another clung to the ice, John fell through the water and was submerged for more than 15 minutes before paramedics arrived.

First responders conducted CPR for 15 minutes before doctors at SSM St. Joseph Hospital West continued for another 27 minutes, NBC affiliate KSDK reported. After John didn't have a heartbeat for 45 minutes, doctors said they called his mom, Joyce, so she could say goodbye.

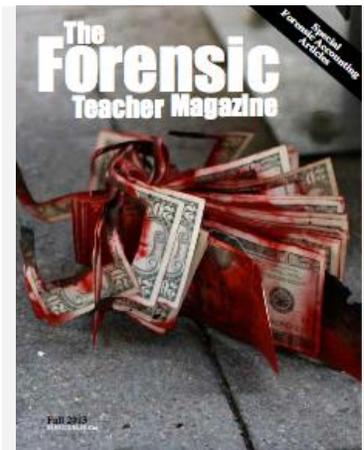
"He was gone," said Dr. Nancy Bauer, who treated John at the Missouri hospital. "I've never felt someone so cold in my life."

As doctors were telling Joyce in the trauma room about the condition of her son, the distraught mom said she started praying.

"A few seconds later, we had a heartbeat," Bauer said. "It gave me goosebumps."

The next morning, John opened his eyes and was able to move his feet. SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center PICU described the story as "a miracle." "I remember everybody just kind of started crying," she said.

But even after John woke up, doctors weren't immediately sure that he would be the same. John had been without oxygen for much longer than the time it takes to cause major brain damage. Within 48 hours of regaining a heartbeat, doctors say, John opened his eyes. And they decided to test the young basketball player.



The Forensic Teacher Online
theforensicteacher.com

"We said, 'John, pretend your left hand is LeBron James and your right hand is Michael Jordan,'" " Dr. Jeremy Garrett, pediatrician, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center said, adding that the teen also correctly answered a series of questions, indicating that his brain functions would return to normal. "It's really amazing," Garrett said.

But doctors say John still has a way to go before he's fully back to normal. He has a persisting cough and must undergo physical therapy to regain movement in his hands.

Still, he said, "I'm thankful that I'm alive now."

DEATH IN THE WATER TANK

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/02/from_the_archives_state_to_take_up_probe_in_death.html
02/08/15 [Mark Mueller | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

[Death in the water tank: nightmarish case remains unsolved 10 years later](#)

- [From the archives: Accident or murder? Former investigator addresses water-tank homicide \(2008\)](#)
- [From the archives: State to take up probe in death of chemist at water treatment plant \(2007\)](#)
- [From the archives: In hunt for killer, police will revisit a 1968 mystery \(2005\)](#)
- [From the archives: At plant, a chilling idea: Killer still on site \(2005\)](#)

[All Stories](#) |

Editor's note: This story about the death of Geetha Angara was published in The Star-Ledger on Feb. 2, 2007. It was written by Mark Mueller.

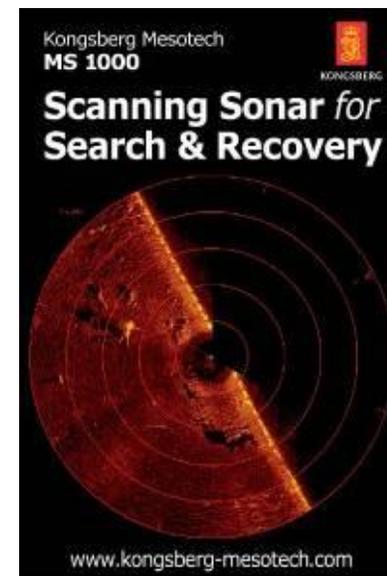
Nearly two years after a chemist was choked into unconsciousness and left to drown in a Totowa water treatment plant, the state Attorney General's Office and the State Police are poised to take over the stalled investigation.

The involvement of the two agencies comes as a "great relief" to the family of Geetha Angara, 43, a mother of three from Holmdel. Her husband, Jaya, has waged a yearlong campaign to enlist outside help, contending the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office has not done enough to find the killer, a claim the prosecutor denies.

"We're hopeful," Jaya Angara said. "We believe it can be solved if it's given the proper attention. But we also think this should have happened a long time ago. They have to find this person."

On Feb. 9, 2005, Angara's body was found in a lightless subterranean tank containing 1 million gallons of purified water. Authorities said she had been dumped in the tank a day earlier.

In a recent interview, Passaic County Prosecutor





An undated photo of Geetha Angara, left, and husband Jaya Angara, who has pressed investigators to solve the case.

James Avigliano said investigators continue to believe it was a co-worker who killed Angara but that detectives have been unable to find evidence to make a murder charge stick.

"Thinking you know who did it and proving it are two different things," Avigliano said. "We have no evidence and no motive. ... The case has been investigated exhaustively. My detectives worked like hell on this." With the case at a standstill, Avigliano ratcheted down the investigation early last year, leading the Angara family to wage a campaign for outside help.

The prosecutor, who initially resisted calls to seek assistance, relented under pressure from Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th Dist.) and other legislators, who took up Jaya Angara's cause. In June, Avigliano wrote to then-Attorney General Zulima Farber, inviting her office to review the case.

Since then, members of the State Police major crimes unit have acquainted themselves with the details of Angara's murder, said John Leonard, a lawyer for the family.

Leonard said state investigators are expected to take a lead role in the probe once they wrap up work on another high-profile case, the murder trial of Melanie McGuire, a 34-year-old fertility clinic nurse accused of killing and dismembering her husband in the couple's Woodbridge home three years ago.

Still unsolved: 10 years later, Geetha Angara's death remains a mystery

Opening arguments in the McGuire trial are scheduled for March 5.

"As we understand it, the Angara case is on their plate, and it's going to be picked up at the conclusion of the trial," Leonard said.

Peter Aseltine, a spokesman for the Attorney General's Office, confirmed the state's involvement in the probe but declined to elaborate, citing a policy restricting comment on active investigations.

In the hunt for a suspect, investigators may not have far to look.

Avigliano said the likely killer is hiding in plain sight, reporting to work as usual and maintaining a veneer of normalcy.



"We have an individual who just goes day to day and doesn't say anything," he said.

That thought is never far from the minds of those who work at the plant, said Joseph Bella, the Passaic Valley Water Commission's executive director.

People continue to do their jobs, Bella said, but the killing hangs in the air.

"People are still very upset about Geetha," he said. "She's just always on our minds."

Asked about the possibility of an arrest, he said, "Every day we think about that and hope for that."

Angara, a native of India with a doctorate in organic chemistry from New York University, worked as a senior chemist at the Totowa plant, responsible for ensuring the quality of drinking water piped to 800,000 people in 17 northern New Jersey communities.

On the morning of Feb. 8, 2005, she descended to a deserted passageway on the facility's lower level to calibrate instruments, a task she performed frequently during her 12 years on the job.

Lined with enormous pipes, the hallway sits atop a vast tank containing ready-to-drink water. Carrying a glass beaker and



In this 2005 file photo, then-Passaic County Prosecutor James Avigliano, left, announces that the death of Geetha Angara has been declared a homicide. Angara drowned in an underground water tank at the Passaic Valley Water Commission's treatment plant in Totowa. (File photo)

a clipboard, Angara walked along the tunnel's concrete floor toward the instruments she intended to service.

Authorities have only a hazy portrait of what happened next, forensic science mated to guesswork.

Avigliano has said investigators believe the killing was an unplanned crime of passion; that Angara argued with someone in the dim, industrial tunnel or stumbled across something she wasn't meant to see.

The killer — almost certainly a man, the prosecutor says — struggled with Angara, wrapping his hands around her neck until she passed out, the autopsy report

shows. He then pried open a 4-foot access hatch set in the floor, revealing the dark tank below, and pushed his victim inside.



In numbingly cold water 35 feet deep, Angara drowned. Above, her killer replaced the 50-pound hatch and returned to work, authorities believe.

It would be 30 hours before police divers discovered her body.

In the weeks that followed, investigators interviewed all 50 people who had been inside the building around the time of Angara's

10:30 a.m. disappearance. They took fingerprints and DNA samples. They administered polygraph tests. They winnowed the list of suspects to eight, then to three.

But linking a suspect to the murder has been harder than anyone initially imagined.

Unaware a crime had taken place, plant employees and police officers who searched for Angara on the night of Jan. 8 trampled the crime scene, fouling any evidence it might have contained.

Angara's body, submerged in chlorinated water for so long, yielded no fingerprints or DNA.

Investigators could find no motive, saying Angara had no known enemies and was not involved in an extramarital affair.

In the quest for answers, the prosecutor's office asked the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency to review the plant's records. They found nothing amiss, Avigliano said.

Early last year, an EPA dive team bearing a remote-controlled, camera-equipped submersible mapped every inch of the massive water tank's floor to search for evidence that might have been missed. Again, nothing.



On the one-year anniversary of Geetha Angara's death, mourners attend a candlelight vigil at the entrance to the Passaic Valley Water Commission's treatment plant in Totowa. Angara's 2005 death, declared a homicide, remains unsolved. The slain chemist's husband, Jaya Angara, is seen second from left. (File photo)

In the absence of official progress, Angara's family members continue to press for answers, and they question why the federal government — chiefly the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security — have not taken an interest given the contention that a killer continues to work at the plant.

"The potential danger is there," Jaya Angara said. "Maybe the killer is hibernating right now. But what happens if he chooses to do something to the water supply?"

Separately, the family is preparing to file a wrongful death suit against the water commission, contending it didn't do enough to safeguard the plant.

Jaya Angara calls his active role in the case a form of therapy, saying it gives him hope for justice and a reason to carry on.

As he struggles to raise his children — a 15-year-old son and two daughters, 11 and 21 — the husband says he is reminded every day of his wife's strengths and his own shortcomings. It was Geetha Angara who dispensed motherly advice, solved everyday problems and soothed bruised feelings. Without his wife, he says, he is adrift, prone to emotional breakdowns.

"It changes your entire life," Jaya Angara said. "There's just a permanent void there. There's no substitute for her."



Police appeal for help to identify mystery victim dredged from Maribyrnong River

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/police-appeal-for-help-to-identify-mystery-victim-dredged-from-maribyrnong-river/story-fni0fee2-12272110985947nk=fd8ca14faf44909f7cf42bd664c7c2a>

02/07/15 ANTHONY DOWSLEY/ SAMANTHA LANDY, HERALD SUN

Vic police continue hunt for body parts



THREE limbs found in the Maribyrnong River since Thursday all belonged to the same person, police believe - and they now have a number of leads to unravel the mystery.

Police spokesman Sen-Constable Adam West said it was believed the three limbs found at the river since Thursday all belonged to the same person.

He told the *Herald Sun* about

3.30pm that police were yet to identify the man they belonged to.

But police had received "a number of calls" to Crime Stoppers since releasing an image of a distinctive devil tattoo found on one of the limbs, he said.

The leads would be investigated, he said.

A third limb was found wedged between rocks on the side of the Maribyrnong River this morning. Two men who alerted police to the gruesome find told the *Herald Sun* it was part of a leg with the kneebone clearly exposed.



**Police remove a limb from the Maribyrnong River after they photograph the scene.
Picture: Tony Gough**

The limb - the third to be found in the river since part of an arm was discovered near Moonee Ponds' The Boathouse cafe on Thursday - was protruding from a white shopping bag.

Essendon man David Neale said he found it while walking his dogs along the river about 11.20am. The 69-year-old said the limb was grey.

It appeared to have washed up on the side of the river and become wedged between some rocks opposite the Essendon Canoe Club and near the Raleigh St Bridge - about 500 metres downstream from where the original limb was found.

"I was just walking along the edge of the river, I looked down and couldn't believe it," Mr Neale said.

Mr Neale said he had been upset by the find.

"I feel awful - it's someone," he said. "I think I'll go home and have a stubby."

Mr Neale and another local walking along the river - Andrew Walker - called local police and flagged down a water police boat conducting sonar searches nearby.

Mr Walker said the experience was "a bit surreal". "It was pretty unmistakable what it was," the 44-year-old said. "Kids are enjoying a nice game of cricket (just over the other side of the river), and there's a body part floating near them."

Victoria Police spokeswoman Belle Nolan said officers were still investigating the circumstances surrounding the find.

"But at this stage police believe this morning's discovery is linked to human remains found in the Maribyrnong earlier this week," Ms Nolan said.



Search Continues for body parts in Maribyrnong River.

Picture: Tony Gough

DEATH LURKS IN THE SHADOWS



Police tape off the area where more human remains were found whilst they photograph the scene. Picture: Tony Gough

Police removed the limb from the river just after 2pm, taking it away for forensic examination.

A search and rescue diver plunged into the water near where the body part was found shortly afterwards. But the diver did not find anything linked to the investigation and abandoned the search about 3.30pm.

Police will now focus their search on this portion of the river - downstream from where the first two limbs and black plastic bags were recovered on Thursday.

Police this morning returned to the Maribyrnong River for a third day.

The identity of a man with a devil tattoo whose severed limbs were pulled out of the river in the Moonee Ponds area remains a mystery.

Victoria Police spokesman Sergeant Kris Hamilton said water police officers would again take to the river on a boat, but search and rescue

divers were not expected to take another plunge today. A police boat yesterday spent the day travelling up and down a 4km stretch of the river, using sonar equipment to scour the water.

They departed from The Boathouse cafe on The Boulevard, in Moonee Ponds, where a portion of the man's arm was first spotted. No additional body parts were found yesterday.

The distinctive tattoo on the inner forearm is the only distinguishing mark homicide investigators have to go on to try to identify who it was who met with foul play in the last eight days.

Police called off a search of the river just after 5pm. No further body parts were found.

Police have confirmed the dead man, who was almost certainly killed and dismembered elsewhere before being dumped in the river, was a white caucasian.

The homicide squad's Detective Inspector Mick Hughes would not divulge how many body parts were retrieved from two sites along the Moonee Ponds section of the river, just a kilometre apart.

But Det. Insp Hughes conceded "major limbs" had been recovered and the victim's hand had been severed, possibly to eliminate the possibility of fingerprint identification.

The remains were being analysed by staff at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Police have been searching their missing person files and running the red devil tattoo through their criminal database but have so far not found a match.

The probe will also involve:

- **RUNNING** DNA through databases for a match.
- **CANVASSING** tattoo parlours for anyone who recognises the devil tattoo.
- **SCOURING** CCTV footage of suspicious activity in the area.
- **DOORKNOCKING** and placing posters asking for witnesses to come forward.
- **ANALYSING** information reports flowing in to police

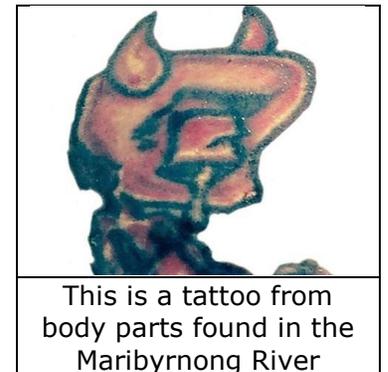
Det. Insp Hughes said it was unfortunate the man's family was likely to learn of his death from seeing the tattoo image.

"We know this is a terrible way for them to find out, but I think it'll get a breakthrough in the investigation early.

"Last night most of our time was spent on missing persons and we're running through tattoos on our criminal database.

"Tattoo parlours will be (among) the avenues we'll look at," Det. Insp Hughes said.

Divers had resumed their search early on Friday following the discovery of the body parts in the river on Thursday.



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A police search and rescue diver plunged in near the bridge at Afton St, Aberfeldie. Detectives looked on as the diver carried out the grisly task of scouring the river bed.

Sonar equipment was also used to sweep the bed. And a police boat spent the day travelling up and down a 4km stretch of the river.

They departed from The Boathouse cafe on The Boulevard, in Moonee Ponds, where a portion of the man's arm was first spotted.

State Emergency Service volunteers conducted line searches along the banks.

Forensic investigators also scoured several "areas of interest".

The gruesome finds, in an area popular with runners and dog walkers, shocked locals.

A witness said: "We're curious. We were told a limb was found. They (the police) are just slowly, slowly going around the river."

Maribyrnong River remains: person identified as more body parts surface

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/maribyrnong-river-remains-person-identified-as-more-body-parts-surface-20150208-138v4r.html>

February 8, 2015 **Rania Spooner**

The human remains that have been washing up alongside the Maribyrnong River are believed to belong to a Melbourne man aged in his late 30s, who was not a missing person.



Police retrieve a suspicious object. Photo: Chris Hopkins

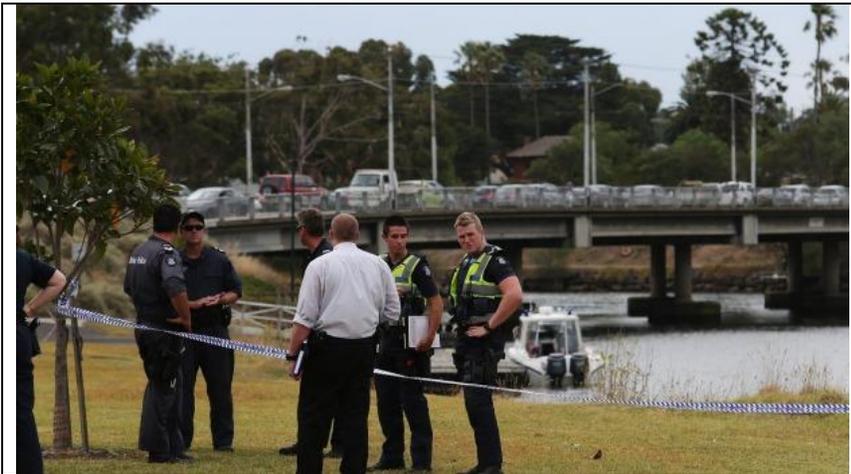


Police divers search for body parts. Photo: Chris Hopkins

The possible breakthrough was made when a close member of the man's family identified a tattoo of a devil



Police divers search for body parts. Photo: Chris Hopkins



Police at the Maribyrnong River where body parts have been found. Photo: Paul Jeffers

on his forearm, which police released through the media last week. That family member walked into the North Melbourne police station and told police they had recognised the tattoo, detective inspector Mick Hughes

said on Sunday. It's a tragic way for the family to find out but it has progressed our investigation," he said.

Detectives are awaiting the results of forensic testing, a process that could take several days, before releasing the man's identity.



Police and detectives bag up suspected body parts found in the Maribyrnong river. Photo: Chris Hopkins

The man was last known to reside near the Melbourne CBD. He had last been in contact with his family during the Christmas period, Inspector Hughes said.

"Once we definitely confirm it's him, we'll really extend our investigations in relation to relatives and friends and locations that he was known to frequent," he said.

"We think we're on the right track, everything points to it, the description by the relative, we're all but sure it's him." Body parts including an arm and a leg have been floating to the surface of the river in Melbourne's north-west since Thursday.



The death is not believed to be linked to gang activity and the deceased was not known to police.

On Sunday another discovery was made, this time by a female rower near the Maribyrnong Road Bridge at about 8am when she spotted something inside a plastic bag.

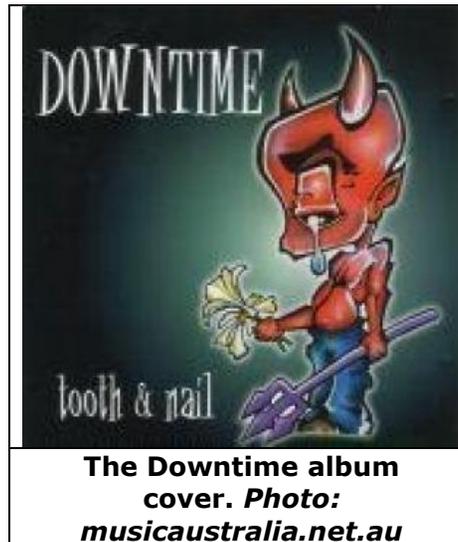
The investigation was launched on Thursday after a forearm was spotted floating nearing the Boathouse at the Boulevard.

Other remains were discovered a short time later, but police have not revealed the details of the second grisly find.

On Saturday, divers entered the river again when a local man spotted part of a leg poking out of a shopping bag on the river's edge, about 500 metres from where the arm was found.

Detectives racing to identify the remains had released an image of the forearm tattoo, revealing what appears to be a devil character holding a spray can.

Web sleuths on the reddit forum were quick to point out the similarity to a devil depicted on the cover of Sydney punk band Downtime's late 90s album *Tooth and Nail*. Earlier, Inspector Hughes said the response from the public, including the spread of information on social media, had been "tremendous".



"We had no idea where the tattoo came from and (the album cover) was one reference and then there was quite a bit of discussion around that," he said.

"Speaking to the relative... we don't know what triggered that contact."

The Maribyrnong is a tidal river, which has complicated the search effort, Inspector Hughes said. "It's a pretty hard bit of water to search," he said. "We haven't found all the body parts and we just ask residents to contact police and we'll certainly respond to that."

He said it was impossible to say what sort of person would have disposed of the body.

"Some people do things out of panic," he said. "If the offender's out there, we're just methodically working our way towards him or her and if they would like to contact crime stoppers we'll certainly make ourselves available."

"A lot of people find themselves in circumstances they've got no control over."

Police urge anyone who sees anything suspicious in the Maribyrnong River to notify police immediately on triple-0.

The search will continue "spasmodically," as other sightings come to light, Inspector Hughes said.

Divers were continuing to scour the river on Sunday.

Family of man whose dismembered body was found dumped in a river help identify him thanks to devil tattoo

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2944467/A-distinctive-tattoo-led-unofficial-identification-man-body-parts-dismembered-dumped-Melbourne-river.html>

8 February 2015 By [CINDY TRAN](#) and [SALLY LEE](#) and [EMILY CRANE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA](#) and [AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

- **The first body parts were discovered by a runner on Thursday**
- **DNA tests will take several days to confirm the identity of the victim**
- **Police believe they have identified the dismembered body of a man**
- **A family member came forward after they recognised the red devil tattoo**
- **A forearm was spotted floating in the Maribyrnong River in Melbourne**
- **Part of a limb and black plastic bag of human flesh found further upstream**
- **Police are scouring missing person records to try and identify the man**
- **Devil tattoo was found on the inner forearm found floating in river**

Police believe they have identified a man's body dumped in pieces in a Melbourne river after a family member recognised a distinctive tattoo.

DNA tests will be used to confirm the identity of the victim, who police say may be a man in his late 30s who lived on the fringe of the Melbourne CBD.

It comes after severed arm with a red devil tattoo was spotted in the Maribyrnong River near the Boathouse restaurant on Thursday, while other remains were found further upstream.

Divers are still scouring the river after more body parts were discovered by a member of the public, who found two severed limbs and a plastic bag of flesh at about 11am on Saturday.

Homicide Squad Detective Inspector Mick Hughes said a close relative of the suspected victim came forward after police released images of a red devil tattoo found on the forearm.

Police released the image after a forearm - severed at the elbow and wrist - was spotted floating in the Maribyrnong River in Melbourne by diners at a nearby restaurant on Thursday afternoon.

'It's a tragic way for the family to find out but it has progressed our investigation,' Det Insp Hughes said.

Police won't release the name of the victim until he is formally identified through DNA testing, which is expected to take several days.

'We will release it as soon as we are able because clearly again we want to know his associates and how they may be able to help us,' Det Insp Hughes said.



It's believed the man was not known to police.

He had not been in contact with his family since Christmas but police say that was not unusual and he was not listed as a missing person.

It comes as a severed arm with a red devil tattoo was spotted in the Maribyrnong River in Melbourne on Thursday.

Det Insp Hughes said the tidal nature of the river made the search for body parts difficult.

He said police were still expecting to find more body parts and any member of the public who come across them should contact officers. 'We've done the best we can on the ground and we'll continue to do that,' he said.

'Certainly if someone sees something we'll have a team respond.'

The first body parts were discovered by a runner, while a rower discovered more on Sunday.

Det Insp Hughes confirmed some of the body parts had been found in plastic but said appeared they had not been weighed down.



Detectives continued searching the river by boat on Friday morning and will focus on a bridge about two kilometres from the restaurant where the forearm was spotted

Investigations into the man's associates will begin once he has been formally identified. Detectives believe the latest find is linked to the other male remains found so far.



A severed arm with a red devil tattoo was spotted near the Boathouse restaurant on Thursday, while the other remains were found further upstream.

The part found on Saturday was near Oakland Street, which is about 1km away from the restaurant. Water police revisited the river on Saturday morning and remain at the scene.

Police released the image of the tattoo after a forearm was spotted floating by diners at a nearby restaurant on Thursday afternoon.

Part of a limb and a black plastic bag of human flesh were found further upstream when police divers searched the area.

A Victoria Police spokesman says police have received a number of calls offering information, and detectives are working through them.

Dramatic rescue saves woman in sinking car

<http://thehive.com/2015/02/18/dramatic-rescue-saves-woman-in-sinking-car-4-photos/>
02/18/2015



A woman in Auckland, New Zealand, has been rescued from her sinking car by policemen who smashed the rear window with a rock to reach her.

The car shot over a ferry terminal's car park and plunged into the water.

Two New Zealand policemen in the water rushing to help the woman, who is in the back seat of the partially submerged car. The officers and a bystander who also jumped into the water couldn't open the doors. So they found a rock...





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[Ernest Campbell, MD, FACS](#)

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medical diver, the non-diving physician and the
specialist.**

<http://www.scuba-doc.com>

Dr. Campbell,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts with respect to diving medicine and education. We are genuinely grateful.

I wanted to alert you to another group who works with divers with disabilities. The Dive Pirates Foundation is a Houston, Texas based nonprofit group that teaches prospective divers, dive buddies and dive instructors. In concert with SCUBA Schools International, we have developed expertise and curricula that allow individuals with various disabilities to dive. Now in our tenth year, we are the largest such group, with chapters across the country and more being created.

Our "Classified Diver" program stratifies divers based on ability, provides appropriate training and recommendations. We train buddies and dive instructors as well. We plan and execute dive trips, and encourage disabled divers to enter the mainstream of diving.

We have trained over 100 divers with disabilities including those with limb amputations, paraplegia and tetraplegia (aka quadriplegia).

If I have a special passion for this, my situation might be

informative. I am a C7 complete tetraplegic since age 17, a practicing physician and a diver. I sit on the Board of Directors for the DPF as well.

We would be pleased to be of service to potential divers with disabilities, their buddies, medical professionals and diving professionals. You can learn more about us at our website: divepirates.org if you are interested. If I can be of help, please contact me at your convenience. Thanks again for your efforts and expertise.

Mark Fredrickson, MD, FAAPMR
Director of Spinal Cord Injury Program
Associate Medical Director
Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital
San Antonio, Texas 78229
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Sinus Rinse/Irrigation for Scuba Divers - HD

Published on Jan 23, 2015

Dr. David Colvard (www.DivePsych.com) demonstrates high volume, positive pressure, buffered saline nasal and sinus irrigation for scuba divers who have problems equalizing pressure in their middle ears due to blockage and/or swelling of the Eustachian tube due to congestion from allergies or colds or dust, etc. This video was made at a dive site on Bonaire in January 2015. David F. Colvard, M.D. is a retired physician and an active PADI Divemaster.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: Dr. Colvard has been a medical consultant to NeilMed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. In 2005 he did a post-marketing study of Sinus Rinse in 100 scuba divers who had a history of using decongestants while diving



Continuing Education

PSDiver-CE-111

Circumstances have prevented us from developing the CE portion of this issue. Because we are limited to a very small pool of contributors weather, duties and timing caused us to curtail CEs this issue. We could use YOUR help. If you would like to help us with our Continuing Education, let us know. We would very much welcome some new team members. If you want to work with us, just send an email to the address below and let us know.

If your team is using the PSDiver CE material, we need some feedback. While we have worked to bring you material and scenario drills to help augment your training, we need your help to make it better.

Send us some feedback on what we are doing that you find helpful, what we could do better, and more importantly, what you need.

Send us a quick note or a detailed essay – we don't care – and help us help your teams.

Email to: PSDivermonthly@aol.com

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As You Trained"**



2015 EVENTS

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DIVE OPS

DUI

PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM
EVENTS, CALENDAR, AND MORE...

2015

DUI's Public Safety Diver Program is in full swing for 2015. Take a look at our schedule below and let us know which events you would like to attend! **NEW** information, **NEW** locations, **NEW** networking opportunities. **ALL** teams welcome to **ALL** events! Whether you have a seasoned team or your team is just starting off, you will obtain valuable information ...guaranteed!

2015 EVENTS

- Seminar, Feb 27, Chicago, IL, Our World Underwater
- Mar 6, Danvers, MA, Boston Sea Rovers - FFM: repair class and drysuit field repairs.
- Workshop, Mar 18-19, Phoenix, AZ, Phoenix Police [Dept](#)
- Seminar, Mar 27, Secaucus, NJ, Beneath the Sea
- Workshop, Mar 31-Apr 1, Portsmouth, VA Henrico Fire [Dept](#)
- Show, Apr 22-25, Indianapolis, IN, FDIC
- Workshop, Apr 25 Woodstock, GA Dive Georgia
- Workshop, Jun 3-7 Lexington, KY, KY Fire School
- Workshop, Aug 1-2 Solano Co, CA, Solano Dive Team
- Workshop, Sep 11, Findlay, OH, [Gilboa](#) Quarry
- Workshop, Oct 16, Rawlings, VA, Lake Rawlings
- Workshop, Oct 19-22, Orlando, FL, IADRS Conference
- Workshop, Nov 13, [Chiefland](#), FL, Manatee Springs
- Workshop, Nov 21, Terrell, TX, Clear Springs Scuba Park

Workshop: Seminars plus in-water component (pool or open water)/test drysuits, [ffm](#), and surface supplied air with in-water tips.

ADMISSION AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Varies with event. For more detailed information on a specific location and what to bring visit DUIDIVEOPS.COM or email jessica@dui-online.com

If you have an event to share for 2015, email the information to 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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA 30333, USA
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

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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

Dive Rescue International

Dive Rescue International has remained exclusively committed to providing training and equipment for all public safety professionals involved in aquatic incidents.



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

