



Greetings,

We have some NEW features to tell you about this month. Last month we introduced a new aspect to our Continuing Education program and brought you our first PSDiver crossword puzzle. If you tried it; you probably found it a bit confusing to do online and not too terribly user friendly. What worked on programming did not jive too well with the web site tools I use to build the PSDiver.com web site. We discovered the problem after we released Issue 52. The puzzle was the result of a couple of months of off and on experimenting and it sucked.

I think the issues have been resolved and the problems fixed. This month we bring you not one but TWO crossword puzzles. One is an easy to do online crossword. The other is our PSDiver Crossword CHALLENGE. You will find files to download and print that will allow you to work the puzzle or share it with your team.

If I can remember how I did it, this will become a new monthly feature for PSDiver Monthly. Your input and commentary is always needed and welcomed. Please let us know what you think of the new web site (www.PSDiver.com) or additions you would like to see. To

send a **Letter to the Editor**, email PSDiverMonthly@aol.com.

* *

Towards the end of this issue you will find a new feature titled EVENTS. These are upcoming trade shows or symposiums that may be of interest to you. The ones we are featuring in this issue ALL include special discounts for PSDiver Monthly subscribers. You will need to follow the links provided in order to get the codes or information regarding the promotion.

Some of them have offered substantial discounts and some have offered free day passes. The ability for you to gain first hand knowledge of new or complimentary technologies is there. I sincerely hope you will take advantage of some of these incredible opportunities.

It is my hope that we will be able to continue to negotiate these types of opportunities for you. If you know of events or shows that are not listed, let us know.

* * *

Last month I wrote an editorial about the possibility that we would begin to see more and more insurance fraud relative to gas guzzler vehicles. Since that time my team has recovered two vehicles and used sonar to locate four others that we will get this month.

If your team is involved in any vehicle recovery there are a few things that I want to remind you about.

If you are recovering a vehicle that is in the water, it is probably there as a result of a criminal activity. It needs to be processed and documented as best as possible BEFORE it is moved. Some files that can help you with this can be downloaded from our [RESOURCES](#) page.

Gasoline will probably escape and when it does, it forms an invisible column. If you are diving with a FFM you might smell it if you go through it or if you are diving scuba, you may taste it. Either way you WILL feel it. Gasoline will attach to skin and will leave an oily residue that can cause a chemical burn. Rubbing it underwater will not help ... Keep soap and water available on the surface. **A towel soaked in soapy water and kept in a freezer bag at the surface will really come in handy if you find you have run into a gas column.** If you are wearing a wet suit, remove it immediately and do not use it again until it has been thoroughly cleaned. If you know what direction the vehicle is facing and can approach it from upstream of the fuel tank, you will probably be able to keep away from a fuel leak.

Doors that are shut should be left shut. Windows should be left intact. Vehicles that are closed – doors shut and windows up – should be extracted VERY slowly. The water that got in will find a way out. Blowing out a rear window because you let the tow truck operator go too fast can be embarrassing – especially if you find a body inside.

Be aware of wash out holes, trees, broken glass, twisted metal and all those things we worry about. But if there is current, make sure you have worst, worst case scenario plans available, discussed and agreed upon BEFORE the first diver enters the water. You do this already, I know. But do you do it to be prepared or because it is something someone once said needed to be done? In one instance a diver in trouble might have a chance, in the other – not so much.

What will you do with the vehicle after you recover it? Does the local LE KNOW you are capable of doing an underwater investigation? Do they KNOW what type of documentation you have to offer? Tell them and then ask THEM how they would like your team to proceed. “Do you want us to just hook it or document position and condition as it sits first?” ... “And if there is a body in the trunk?”

Be aware – be alert – be prepared - be smart.

Dive Safe!
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly

SPECIAL TO PSDIVER MONTHLY



A to Z Grantwriting

with Linda Vallejo



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PSDiver Monthly Grantwriting Series: Part 2

“Approaching Foundation Funders to Diversify your Funding Base.”

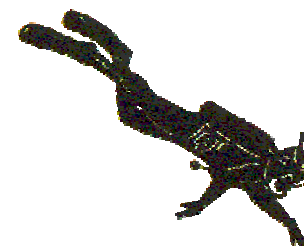
The first step in finding foundation support is to research each potential funder to find if it is a “good match” for your organization and program efforts. What is a good-match potential funder? A good-match potential funder will use the same kind of language as your organization to describe its mission and goals, will have a similar understanding of the problems facing the community, and will have much the same vision for change and growth.

Keep in mind that a *team* of foundation funders is needed to support a proposed program. No single foundation funder will provide 100% of the funds needed to support any given program or project. Also, remember the more

foundation application guidelines you read and study the more you will understand how funders present themselves, their mission, goals, application guidelines, and the documents and materials *they* expect in a complete proposal package.

Here is a chronology of the grantwriting process in approaching foundation funders to help you along in the process of gaining additional support.

1. ***Research good-match potential funders.*** You'll do this by researching at your regional funding library and on the Internet.
2. ***Obtain the potential-funders' application guidelines and annual reports.*** It is very important to obtain the funder's guidelines on their website or to call the potential funder to request these published materials. Remember, the funder will expect you to study its application-guideline materials thoroughly!
3. ***Study the application guidelines and annual report.*** Be sure to read these materials thoroughly to determine if the funder is a potential “good match” for your organization and program efforts. A “good match” is when the funder's mission and programs line up with your organization's mission and projects.
4. ***Make an introductory phone call.*** If the funder provides contact information, and if you are completely prepared to ask specific



questions and to answer questions about your organization and program efforts, you may make an introductory telephone or email contact with the appropriate program officer. Your goal in contacting the funder is to introduce your organization and proposed program efforts, briefly and succinctly, to ask specific questions about the application process, and to find the answers to the following questions:

- ◆ Is the funder interested in supporting your organization?
 - ◆ What program is it specifically interested in supporting?
 - ◆ Which areas of the proposed program is it most interested in funding?
 - ◆ What is the appropriate amount to request?
 - ◆ What are the next steps to take in requesting support?
5. **Complete the initial approach.** In the majority of cases, the funder will ask you to submit a Letter of Inquiry as the initial step in the process of requesting support. Remember to follow the funder's application guidelines exactly!
 6. **Submit a Letter of Request or Full Proposal Package.** At this point, the funder will notify you if it is interested in receiving a Letter of Request or Full Proposal. Remember, some

funders may skip the Letter of Inquiry as the initial step, and instead ask you to submit a Letter of Request or Full Proposal as your first step in the process.

7. **Receive your grant award.** Remember to send a well-written note to the funder thanking them for their support.
8. **Turn a decline into something positive.** If the funder declines your request, call for feedback so you can improve your next request. This is a normal part of the request process!
9. **Complete a final report.** Many funders will request a final report after the completion of the proposed program, as a part of your agreement with them.

Definitions

- A **Letter of Inquiry** is a 2-3 page letter of introduction outlining the organization's history, mission and goals, and proposed program that "suggests" an amount the organization would like to request. After the Letter of Inquiry is submitted the funding sources gets back to the organization with an invitation to submit a Letter of Request or Full Proposal Package.
- A **Letter of Request** is 5-10 page a letter outlining your organization's history, mission and goals, and proposed program, that "requests" a specific amount from the funding source.

- A **Full Proposal** is a multi-page document outlining the organization's mission, goals, and objectives; proposed program need statement, objectives and outcomes, staff listing, evaluation component, future funding opportunities, and specific amount requested from the funding source. The formal proposal is generally accompanied with a Cover Letter outlining the basics of the request to the funder.

The only difference between a Letter of Request and a Full Proposal Package is the length of the document and formatting. The Letter of Request is submitted on letterhead with contact information and signature, and the Full Proposal Package is accompanied by a Cover Letter on letterhead with contact information and signature.

Outlines and Definitions

Here's a general outline of the **Letter of Inquiry** in the sequence expected by funders:

- Introductory paragraph, including the suggested request amount and a brief description of the proposed program.
- Your organization's history, mission statement, and goals.
- Details about the proposed program.
- Need statement (problem statement describing the need for your program).

- Proposed Program paragraphs—brief overview (one to two paragraphs).
- Measurable objectives (sometimes called "Expected Results" or "Outcomes").
- Evaluation plan (describing how you will evaluate the success of your program).
- Future funding (other funding sources supporting your efforts).
- A conclusion that extends an invitation to the funder for a site visit (if not previously done) and provides telephone- and e-mail-contact information.

Here's a general outline for a typical **Letter of Request** with the additional items in bold:

1. Introductory paragraph, including the request amount and a brief description of the proposed program.
2. Your organization's history, mission statement, goals, and **major accomplishments**.
3. Details about the proposed program:
 - Need statement
 - Overview of Proposed Program paragraphs
 - Measurable objectives
 - **Timeline** (this is also called a Work Plan or Methodology)
 - Evaluation plan

- **Key staff and leadership bios** (short paragraphs describing leadership and staff with titles, education, and program responsibilities)
 - **Project budget** (total project budget and request amount)
 - Future funding
4. A conclusion that extends an invitation to the funder for a site visit (if **not previously** done), and **provides** telephone- and e-mail-contact information.

Finally, here are some resources that I hope will be helpful. In order to research national foundation and corporate funding sources, **you** should plan a visit to the Foundation Center Cooperating Collection Research Library. A list of libraries can be found at :<http://foundationcenter.org/collections/>. These libraries provide free publications and resources and services for agencies looking for grant opportunities. The library also provides a librarian to help you in your search as well as free grantwriting workshops and seminars.

Best of Luck in all your efforts!

NATIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES AND FUNDERS

- ◆ The United States Fire Administration - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/>
- ◆ Fire Assistance Grant - <http://hcs.osu.edu/ODNR/Fire/pdf/vfa1.pdf>

- ◆ Fire Chief Gateway - <http://industryclick.com/advsearchresults.asp?qry=grants&SiteID=26&MagazineID=157&CodeID=&selectSearch=mag%3B157>
- ◆ Chief Grants - <http://www.chiefsupply.com/grants/?adwords>
- ◆ The United States Fire Administration - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/>
- ◆ Fire Assistance Grant - <http://hcs.osu.edu/ODNR/Fire/pdf/vfa1.pdf>

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DISASTER, SEARCH AND RESCUE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION FUNDERS WITH LOCATION, AND TOTAL GIVING

- ◆ 3M Foundation St. Paul, MN -\$51,808,321 - \$20,961,996
- ◆ American Express Foundation New York, NY - \$11,294,857 -\$17,582,872
- ◆ Apex Foundation, The Herndon, VA -\$100,486 - \$280,603
- ◆ Buck Foundation, Helen R., The Philadelphia, PA - \$4,180,117 -\$192,000
- ◆ Citi Foundation New York, NY -\$57,458,654 - \$73,881,690
- ◆ DRS Technologies Charitable Foundation, Inc. Parsippany, NJ -\$156,157 -\$545,293

- ◆ Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation St. Louis, MO - \$105,831,605 -\$11,613,660
- ◆ Estefan Foundation, Inc., Gloria, The Miami, FL - \$103,414 -\$162,652
- ◆ Flextronics Foundation San Jose, CA -\$6,071,982 - \$345,000
- ◆ HEED Foundation Bellingham, WA -\$622,025 - \$185,000
- ◆ Help America Foundation, Ltd. Alsip, IL -\$753,562 - \$159,125
- ◆ MBIA Foundation, Inc. Armonk, NY -\$4,858,767 - \$2,154,436
- ◆ Monsanto Fund St. Louis, MO -\$8,402,133 - \$9,363,399
- ◆ Motorola Foundation Schaumburg, IL -\$159,131,143 -\$13,278,814
- ◆ NiSource Charitable Foundation Merrillville, IN - \$2,268,667 -\$911,913
- ◆ PADI Foundation Beverly Hills, CA -\$3,046,307 - \$177,548
- ◆ Penney Company Fund, Inc., J. C. Dallas, TX - \$2,441,773 -\$1,566,243
- ◆ Procter & Gamble Fund, The Cincinnati, OH - \$44,263,781 -\$25,009,145
- ◆ Strauss Foundation, Levi San Francisco, CA - \$78,545,593 -\$8,547,921

- ◆ Surdna Foundation, Inc. New York, NY -\$859,153,983 -\$30,611,000
- ◆ United Stationers Charitable Trust Deerfield, IL - \$99,311 -\$187,759
- ◆ Wadhvani Foundation Palo Alto, CA -\$3,242,695 - \$704,030
- ◆ Western Union Foundation Englewood, CO - \$1,780,739 -\$9,653,889

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- ◆ A to Z Grantwriting 1 and 2 Day Training Workshops available for non-profit organizations, institutions, and agencies, and their partners

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A to Z Grantwriting will be providing a series of articles to help you along in the process!

SPECIAL to PSDiver Monthly

The Need for First Responders to be Trained and Equipped to Perform Domestic Animal Rescues

by Gerald M. Dworkin

Based on our research of ice rescue incidents and fatalities during the years 2006 & 2007, approximately 85% of the incidents were initiated as a result of humans venturing out onto the ice to rescue a domestic animal. The purpose of this article is three-fold. First, we need to educate the public about the need to control their pets and to prevent them from going out onto the ice because no ice should ever be considered as being "safe ice". Second, we need to also educate the public to call 911, rather than to make an attempt to rescue their pets that have fallen through the ice. And, third, First Responder agencies and their personnel need to be trained and equipped to properly, effectively, and safely respond to domestic animal rescues on and through the ice.

NFPA 1670: Standard for Technical Rescue

In February 2004, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) published NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents.



Gerald
Dworkin

The purpose of this standard is to minimize threats to rescuers while conducting operations at technical SAR incidents. This standard deals specifically with identifying and establishing levels of functional capability for conducting technical rescue operations safely and effectively. Although these standards were designed for all types of Technical Rescue operations, they also address water and ice rescue operations.

These standards are intended to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to:

1. Assess the technical rescue hazard within their specific response area;
2. Identify the level of operational capability needed; and
3. Establish operational criteria.

As a responder to technical rescue incidents, the AHJ needs to determine the level of response the authority is compelled to provide. The AHJ must then plan for it, train for it, and allocate the necessary resources to manage the appropriate response at that level.

According to NFPA 1670, the AHJ shall establish levels of operational capability needed to conduct operations at technical SAR incidents safely and effectively, based on hazard identification, risk assessment, training level of personnel, and availability of internal and external resources. This standard also advocates the

establishment of written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) consistent with one of these operational levels:

Awareness level: represents the minimum capability of organizations that provide response to technical SAR incidents.

Operations level: represents the capability of organizations to respond to technical SAR incidents, and to identify hazards, use equipment, and apply limited techniques specified in this standard to support and participate in technical SAR incidents.

Technician level: represents the capability of organizations to respond to technical SAR incidents, and to identify hazards, use equipment, and apply advanced techniques specified in this standard necessary to coordinate, perform, and supervise technical SAR incidents.

Once the operational level has been identified, the AHJ shall establish operational procedures consistent with the identified level of operational capability to ensure that technical SAR operations are performed in a manner that minimizes threats to rescuers and others. Once the appropriate level of operational capability has been determined, the AHJ must then provide for


training in the responsibilities that are commensurate with the operational capability of the organization, and provide for the continuing education necessary to maintain all requirements of the organization's identified level of operational capability.

In order to meet the organization's identified level of operational capability, in addition to developing SOPs and providing necessary training for its personnel, the AHJ must ensure that equipment commensurate with the respective operational capabilities for operations at technical SAR incidents and training exercises is provided.

Domestic Animal Rescue

Many First Responder organizations have established policies that prohibit their personnel from responding to domestic animal rescues due to the inherent risk and danger posed to their personnel. However, it must be realized that if trained professional rescue personnel don't respond, then the public will do so at great risk to themselves. And, in doing so, the incident can escalate from an animal at risk of drowning to a human victim or multiple victim incident at risk of drowning.

In order for First Response agencies to safely and effectively respond to any type of cold water and/or ice rescue incident, the First Responders must be appropriately trained for this type of incident, and

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they must have the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This should include an appropriately designed Ice Rescue Suit with integrated gloves, rigid sole boots, hood, and harness system. Other PPE equipment could include a helmet, cleats, and ice awls. In addition, the rescue personnel must be tethered to shore at all times with line that is specifically designed for use in water and/or on ice.

In addition to this equipment, any rescue personnel venturing onto the ice or into the water to rescue an animal should also be equipped with an animal control pole. The purpose of the pole is to allow the rescuer to safely snare the animal and to restrain the animal while keeping the animal at a safe distance away from the rescuer and/or his/her equipment.

The Ketch-All Company has been manufacturing quality animal control equipment for over 50 years. According to their company, their goal is to provide the animal handling professional with the highest quality, safest & cost-effective restraint pole on the market. For information on their company and products, visit their website at www.ketch-all.com.

Lessons Learned: Dog-rescuing hero picks up infection from dog bite

On December 13, 2007, John Smith a New Jersey Firefighter, responded with

his Fire Company to a detention pond for a report of a dog that had fallen through the ice. Upon arrival on the scene, Firefighters Smith and Roberts sledged onto the ice and made their way to the hole where Skipper, a black Labrador, was paddling in the frigid water. As the firefighters scooped the dog out to rescue it, Skipper bit through Smith's gloved left hand, penetrating the skin. Firefighter Smith suffered a broken finger and the bite allowed contaminated pond water to seep into the wound, causing an infection.

As a result of this incident, Firefighter Smith has been out of work for the past six weeks. Although the doctors set the break, because of the infection Smith has been on antibiotics ever since, getting as many as four intravenous treatments a day for three weeks. On top of all that, Firefighter Smith also developed a case of the Shingles which he believes was caused by the stress the injury caused on this body. Smith is a professional firefighter and works part-time as a Fire Inspector for a smaller department, and also is an instructor at the state Fire Academy. For the six weeks, he's not been allowed to perform any work until the doctors clear him.

Ice Rescue Training

The focus of any ice rescue training program should be to prepare rescue personnel to safely and effectively respond to incidents on and through the ice. Training in personal safety



and survival skills should be paramount. Rescue skills should include the use of a variety of equipment, procedures, and techniques and should include rescue protocols for active, as well as passive victims; the management of suspected spinal injuries; and domestic animal rescue.

Summary

Public Safety and Rescue agencies need to pre-plan ice and water rescue incidents, and personnel need to be appropriately trained to safely and effectively respond to incidents on and through the ice. Collaborative discussions and pre-planning should also be conducted with the community animal control officers. Humane Society representation can also be brought into the loop. Besides the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment needed for water and ice rescue incidents, First Responder agencies should also obtain animal control poles to prevent the animal from compromising the equipment or safety of the rescue personnel.

Gerald Dworkin is a professional Aquatics Safety and Water Rescue Consultant for Lifesaving Resources Inc., a company dedicated to drowning and aquatic injury prevention and emergency management.

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Or go to: <http://psdiver.com/recallnotices.html>

PSDiver News

Flood rescue response 'was woefully underfunded'

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Flood-rescue-response-39was-woefully.4218964.jp>
25 June 2008 By [Tom Smithard Political Correspondent](#)

Yorkshire, UK- Rescue workers will be woefully unprepared for any future flooding emergency unless the Government provides urgent funding for resources and training, a leading expert will say today.

Sir Michael Pitt, who has spent the last year leading the Government's "lessons learned" review into last summer's floods, told the Yorkshire Post he was being "completely clear" with Ministers that firefighters needed more funding.

Sir Michael will today release his report to mark the first anniversary of the worst of last summer's flooding – which saw vast swathes of East and South Yorkshire deluged by torrential rainfall.

And in a separate report, the Institution of Civil Engineers will say that key infrastructure in Yorkshire – particularly power, water and transport facilities – remains particularly vulnerable to flooding.



Residents in Bentley near Doncaster were forced out of their homes last year

MORE COVERAGE:

[Level of investment in floods protection 'fine'>>
'Little being done' to protect key services in region>>Still a long road to recovery, warns minister>>](#)

A series of errors were made in the immediate aftermath of last June's downpour, including Hull going only to Silver rather than Gold Command to deal with the emergency because of the lack of training, awareness and preparation among the council and emergency services.

While no one could doubt their bravery or dedication, Sir Michael said, the emergency services' lack of training and resources – including inflatable dinghies to get to flooded areas and pumps to remove water – made rescue attempts difficult.

In March, Sir Michael said he had "cause for concern" that there was a lack of a statutory duty on any organization to carry out flood rescue, an absence of funding for equipment and training, and no agreed national scheme for aid in flood emergencies.

"If another wide-area flooding emergency happened in the near future, those responding to the emergency would still not necessarily have the right resources or training to respond safely," he said.

Speaking to the Yorkshire Post this week ahead of the publication of his report, he added: "We are completely clear there has to be a leadership role for fire and rescue services during any flooding.

"We are completely clear that the equipment needed must be provided and that the fire fighters who undertake that work are properly trained and equipped to carry that out. That should be afforded. We are talking about small sums of money. It should not become an impediment to responding to future flooding."

Last night Fire Minister Parmjit Dhanda said: "It is for fire and rescue authorities to equip their operational staff appropriately based on their assessment of risks,

however, the Government is determined to play its part by ensuring that firefighters have the best possible equipment and clothing.

"The Government has already invested many millions in specialist resilience equipment and resources for the fire and rescue service. "In his report Facing the Challenge, the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser Sir Ken Knight recommended that there should be a fully funded national capability for flood rescue.

"His recommendations have fed into



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the final report by Sir Michael Pitt. The Government will be carefully considering his recommendations." Sir Michael also criticized the owners of England's critical infrastructure such as power stations, sewage plants, hospitals and railways for not making site plans and other essential information available to emergency services.

He said that companies were prevaricating because of fears of terrorism and commercial sensitivity – and warned that they were placing their own interests ahead of keeping Britain running during future floods. "We are concerned about dissemination of information on critical infrastructure not going as quickly as it should," Sir Michael said. "It comes back to a question of where the public interest lies. "Is it with making sure plans of our critical infrastructure don't come into the hands of

terrorists, or a question of commercial confidentiality and share prices, or is the public interest with having our Gold and Silver Command fully aware of what needs protecting during any emergency? "I think we've got the public interest wrong at the moment and there has to be a shift. We need to move away from a need-to-know culture and towards a need-to-share culture on information."



In total the Pitt Report makes 92 recommendations, based on the evidence submitted by more than 1,000 individuals and organizations affected by last year's floods in Yorkshire and the South West.

Main points of Pitt report

- ◆ Environment Agency should take overview on surface water flooding
- ◆ Avoid building developments in flood-risk areas
- ◆ No more funding for new flood defences
- ◆ Local authorities to map drainage in their area
- ◆ Insurers to start providing low-cost cover for householders
- ◆ Improved facilities and information for emergency services
- ◆ Statutory declaration of flood risk to those buying a house
- ◆ Regular publication of homeless numbers due to flooding.

Related Topics: [Great Flood - one year on](#)

New equipment for water rescue team makes us all safer

<http://www.kccommunitynews.com/articles/2008/07/03/miami-county-republic/opinion/doc486a957e12c20010618944.txt>

July 2, 2008 **Editorial** By Brian McCauley

KANSAS - The Miami County Water Rescue Team's recent acquisition of a new Zodiac boat is a drastic improvement in the safety of residents across the county, not just in Osawatomie. When the flood hit last summer, the seven volunteers from the Osawatomie Fire

Department were put to the test, and they passed with flying colors.

Using an old flat-bottom aluminum boat, the members battled swift currents to rescue boaters and stranded homeowners. The rescues brought the team into the limelight, but their work goes beyond natural disasters.

The team also has been used to rescue horses that have fallen into icy ponds, as well as assist law enforcement officials in searches for evidence. In 2006, the team assisted several agencies in the search for a Lenexa teen who drowned at Hillsdale Lake.

Now, for the first time, the team has an actual operating budget, provided by Miami County Rural Fire District No. 1. It also has received funding from Osawatomie as well as people who have donated funds or equipment since last July's flood.

The new Zodiac inflatable boat will give the members an advantage the next time they need to traverse swift currents in the Marais des Cygnes River, Pottawatomie Creek, Bull Creek or any other waterway in the county. The new equipment will also make it easier for the team to recruit more members, something it desperately needed last summer. Three new hopefuls already are ready to begin training.

The entire county owes the rescue team thanks for their dedication. Let's hope the new budget and

equipment ensures the volunteers will be protecting us for years down the road.

Rescuers Free Women from Submerged Car

<http://www.kctv5.com/weather/16778540/detail.html#>

July 3, 2008

KANSAS CITY, Kan. --

Crews pulled off a daring water rescue after a thunderstorm led to flash flooding Wednesday evening, swallowing three cars at North 15th Street and Washington Boulevard.



Two women were inside one of the cars and said they didn't see the high water until it was too late. Within seconds, their vehicle was submerged. "We couldn't see anything and when I knew we were going under, I tried to reverse and I couldn't reverse because the car was just going under so we just got out real fast," Davita Carter said.



The water reached 7 feet deep, and firefighters had to dive into it to make sure everyone got out of their cars.

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Police bravery awards after river rescue

http://www.clitheroeadvertiser.co.uk/clitheroenews/Police-bravery-awards-after-river_4250602.jp

June 3, 2008

Burnley, UK - A brave Ribble Valley police sergeant, who rescued a woman from a flood swollen stream, is being honoured at the prestigious Police Bravery Awards in London next week.

Sgt James Saddoo, of Clitheroe Police, and PC Victoria Wilson, now based at Accrington, were called to Tinker Brook, Oswaldtwistle, in December 2006, where a local woman lost her footing on the steep, slippery 15ft. embankment. The woman, from the Burnley area, had fallen into the brook as she tried to rescue her dog.

Fortunately as she was swept away she managed to grab the branch of a tree, overhanging the brook and shout for help.

Her cries were heard by a local who contacted the police. The officers arrived on the opposite bank of the stream and, as their route to the other bank would have taken some time and their throw line would have been ineffective, decided they would risk their lives to enter

the torrent to cross over and reach the woman.

They retrieved the throw line from their vehicle and PC Wilson tied it around a tree and PS Saddoo tied it around his waist and waded into the freezing water. As he tried to reach the woman he was swept off his feet repeatedly and PC Wilson, who could see he was struggling, decided to wade into the brook to help him. She was also swept off her feet by the fast flowing torrent a number of times, but their determination to save the woman, was rewarded as they eventually reached her and lifted her clear of the water until help arrived.

The woman was taken to the Royal Blackburn Hospital where she was treated for hyperthermia and kept in overnight for observation.

Pomona native rescues drowning couple

<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008807040379>

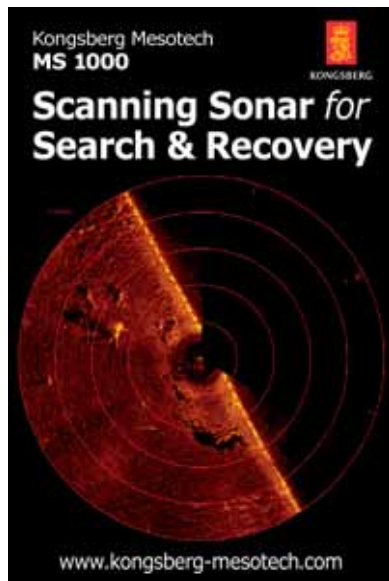
July 4, 2008 Akiko Matsuda at amatsuda@lohud.com

WASHINGTON - Pomona native Paul Wilson did not have a second thought when his colleague asked if he was confident enough to swim out to save a drowning couple in the bay. The seaman apprentice assigned to the Naval



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Hospital Bremerton in Washington state was patrolling the area Sunday when he spotted a canoe that had flipped over in Dyes Inlet.

His colleague, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Bobby Colon, had to use a pair of binoculars to see the people far out in the bay. Then Colon asked Wilson if he could help.

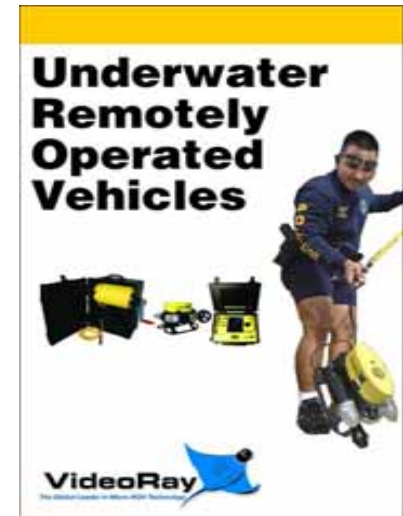
Wilson, 19, walked through bushes to the shore, removed his gun belt and radio, undressed and jumped into the water to swim out to the couple, who were about 200 yards offshore. "I first got up to the wife," Wilson said. "I asked her if she was okay, and she said yes because she had a life jacket."

But her husband, who was without a life jacket, was in distress, barely holding on to the overturned canoe. "He said he felt really weak," Wilson said. "He said he swallowed a lot of water and he had a heart problem." Wilson found a life jacket inside the canoe, put it on for him, and asked if he could swim back with him.

When he learned the husband did not have any energy left to do that, Wilson suggested the husband hold on to the canoe. Wilson's idea was to pull the canoe and the man back to the shore. And that's what he did.

The Kitsap Sun, a local newspaper covering Kitsap County, Wash., reported that the 77-year-old husband and his 69-year-old wife, both of Erlands Point, Wash., were treated at the scene by the Bremerton Fire Department and sent home.

Lt. Charlie Rinard of the Bremerton Fire Department applauded Wilson's action, calling it "heroic." "To be honest with you, there was none of us, standing on shore, as far as the Fire Department that would have jumped into the water and swam out to those people. They were too far away," said Rinard, adding that firefighters were not trained to do water rescue and the department's rescue boat was not available because it was being repaired. "He did not hesitate. It was just great. It was just good feeling to know that the Navy is out there, helping people." "To be honest with you," Rinard said, "without Wilson, the old guy wouldn't have made it."



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Wilson said he didn't remember the names of the couple, who kept thanking him for saving them. "It was my birthday," Wilson said of the day he helped the couple. "I'm

really glad that I got to save their lives."

Wilson's family members were elated when they learned why Wilson did not answer the phone when they called him up to say happy birthday. Wilson later called them back and told his family what happened. "He was very excited," said Wilson's mother, Maggie Wilson of Pomona. "I thought, 'My son is a hero.' I knew that Paul's very brave."

Wilson, a 2007 Ramapo High School graduate, joined the Navy in September and was assigned to the Naval Hospital Bremerton as a security officer on June 1. "I'm proud of him," said Alicia Wilson, 20, his sister. "I'm happy for him. He's our hero."

Maggie Wilson said she believed that being a hero was something her son always wanted to do, following in footsteps of his grandfather, Richard F. Curran, 90, of West Haverstraw. Curran received a Purple Heart for his injuries during his deployment in Europe. He was a

quarterback of North Rockland High School's Red Raiders, Maggie Wilson said. "I respect my grandfather a lot," said Paul Wilson, adding that he told his grandfather about the rescue on his birthday. "He was really, really happy. He's very proud of me."

Season of rapids, rafters and rescues

<http://wenatcheeworld.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080705/NEWS04/228829001/1005>
 July 05, 2008 [By Rachel Schleif World staff writer](#)

DRYDEN, WASHINGTON — Three hefty tugs and the rescuers pulled Chris Totten's seemingly lifeless body out of the Wenatchee River. Totten flopped over the side of the rescue raft, his face

Watch his head ... Don't let him drown," swift-water rescuer Richelle Wilson called out. "Turn him over."

"Towards me?" said her teammate Brent Corbaley. "Yeah," Wilson said as they heaved Totten onto his back. After a



Along Tumwater Canyon, a quickly moving but calm section of the Wenatchee River, seen upper right, quickly turns into the hazardous rapids called "Chaos." This area of the river has been the site of a death in 2003 and two in 2006. (World photo/Don Seabrook)

moment, Totten's eyes popped open and a smile spread wide across his face.

"Good job you guys," said Totten, a swift-water rescue instructor.

The June 25 practice was part of the first day of seasonal training for the Chelan County Swift Water Rescue Team as it gets ready for a long and perhaps busy season on the Wenatchee River. "The more training you do, the better off you'll be in the situation," Totten said.

When river rescue calls start rolling in, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office is hoping a few recent changes will improve response times.

The Swift Water Rescue headquarters moved to Cashmere from Leavenworth, so the team can get to the scene faster, said Sgt. Rob Huddleston, marine patrol coordinator for the sheriff's office.

Response times on



Along Tumwater Canyon, mile marker 97, a quickly moving but calm section of the Wenatchee River, seen in foreground, quickly turns into the hazardous rapids called "Chaos." The dropoff to the rapids is in the background. This area of the river has been the site of a death in 2003 and two in 2006. (World photo/Don Seabrook)

swift-water calls range from 15 minutes to a half hour before a first responder can assess the situation, Huddleston said. Rounding up equipment and volunteers can add up to another half hour, depending on location.

"The majority of calls we get are from Leavenworth to the mouth of the Wenatchee," Huddleston said. "Cashmere is more centrally located."

Plus, several members of the swift-water team live in the Cashmere area, Huddleston said.

About 24 people are on the call list. The team includes several fire departments, commercial raft guides, longtime river rafters and Chelan County sheriff deputy Mike Mcleod.

Huddleston said the sheriff's office will also ramp up life jacket patrols along the river. Any commercial-style watercrafts, including privately owned rafts and canoes, must carry enough life jackets for everyone on board. Children under 12 must wear them, Huddleston said.

The sheriff's office is also working with commercial rafting companies to try to identify the most dangerous spots on the river. Huddleston's goal is to eventually post warning signs either before the hazard or at several of the many drop-in points

RELATED LINKS

STORY:
[Wenatchee River deaths](#)

LINK:
[VIDEO: Whitewater rescue](#)

along the river, he said. "That's the pie in the sky of what I want to do," Huddleston said.

Two drowning deaths last year sparked a public outcry for more warning signs and other safety measures.

Elizabeth Ellis, 50, of Escondido, Calif., was tubing near Wenatchee River County Park and drowned in a logjam Aug. 2. Three days later, Jillian Ward, a 26-year-old Selah woman, drowned in a logjam about 2,000 feet away.

Chelan County denied requests to remove the logjams, citing a lengthy permitting process that would involve several government agencies.

The county has no plans to remove woody debris along the Wenatchee this summer, said Mike Kaputa, director of the county Department of Natural Resources. In 2007, county officials said they could not remove debris quickly because of state and federal environmental requirements.



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"We recognize the river is a dangerous place, but we're not going to remove all the safety hazards out there," Kaputa said. The county is planning a public forum in September on the

topic of woody debris in the Wenatchee and Entiat rivers, Kaputa said.

"We're going to be talking about fish habitat projects and safety

issues," Kaputa said. The day and place have not been set, he said.

What to watch out for

High flows bring different dangers than low water later in the season. "When the water's high it's usually cold out, and most people who raft it are experienced," Totten said. "High water's not the killer. Most accidents we see around here are tubers when it's hot."

Freshly melted, the cold water can start causing hypothermic symptoms within three minutes, depending on the person's clothing, Huddleston said. The most common symptom is loss of motor skills.

When summer temperatures peak and the water slows and warms, the recreationalists emerge in force with their bathing suits and beer coolers, rope ties and "Kmart killers," as the long-time rafters call the vinyl rafts.



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"I will say I've found many, many remains of vinyl rafts (on the river)," said kayaker John Marshall. "Many people who start down don't finish in those

things."

As the water level drops, downed logs and large boulders are more apt to flip tubes and pull swimmers underneath the water. The best maneuver for swimming out of a logjam is to swim straight for it and try and jump on top of the pile before your legs are swept under, Marshall said.

"The standard river advice is to keep your feet downstream but in regard to sweepers (logjams), it's exactly opposite," Marshall said.

Tubers should look out for significant drops in the river or big bends, where debris piles up, said Dave Johnson, owner of Tube Leavenworth.

When in doubt get out of the water and see what's ahead on foot first. "If you're going privately and you're not familiar with the river, this year wait another month until August or go with a professional outfitter," Johnson said. "We're happy to share information with people who call. We have

waterproof maps with landmarks, so people have an idea where they're going."

The two women trapped in a logjam last year were the first reported tubing deaths in 14 years, according to The Wenatchee World archives.

In the last 14 years, 20 people have died on the Wenatchee River. "The river's forgiving 98 percent of the time, and then it can be really unforgiving," said rafter and rescuer Harland Sheppard. "Typically most accidents involve alcohol, inexperience or no flotation device. So if you combine those three, you've got a recipe for disaster."

Of the average 10 swift-water calls a year, two are usually fatal, Huddleston said.

Many rescues aren't reported. Every day someone is separated from their boat, falls out of their raft or is involved in some other harmless mishap easily handled by commercial or private rafting pros. "There have been several cases where you see people going down and you





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just help them out while you're on the river and it never gets reported," said Jean-luc Robichaux, a longtime kayaker and swift-water rescuer.

The Wenatchee River is a relatively safe place to play considering the frequency of experienced rafters along the river, said Gary Planagan, owner of Osprey Rafting in Leavenworth. "That's why there are more commercial outfits here because it's such a low-hazard river," Planagan said.

At the end of the day, preparedness makes the difference, Sheppard said. "Remembering you can drown in a bathtub keeps it all in perspective," Sheppard said. "You need to respect the river, know where you're going and have the right equipment, whether it's a wetsuit to keep warm or a life jacket to stay afloat, or good boats."

Teenager admits kicking river death student

<http://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/latest-east-anglia-news/Teenager-admits-kicking-river-death.4263106.jp>

Jul 7, 2008

UK - A Bedford teenager has told a court it was his kick that sent a student plummeting into a fast-flowing river. Thomas Luddington, 18, told the jury at Luton Crown Court it was his fault Robert Gill, 17, had fallen into the Great Ouse river in Bedford, but that he had not intended to kill him. Luddington, of Dunham Close, denies murder but has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, robbery and false imprisonment.

His co-defendants, Sean Downes, 18, of Acacia Road, Bedford, and a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named, deny murder, robbery and false imprisonment.

On Monday, Luddington described his kick that sent the engineering student into the river. He said: "Sean had him by the lapels. Robert was facing him and he was pushing him backwards over the edge of the bridge. I saw him trying to grab Sean. He was either trying to grab Sean or hit him. "I went on to the bridge and I kicked his legs and that's what caused him to go over. It was just underneath his knees. It made him lose his balance and he went back and I think Sean lost grip and he went in. I saw him go under on the other side of the bridge and



come back up and take a breath. "I saw him take a breath and start to swim so I left. I panicked and left."

Robert died after the three youths allegedly attacked him after a night out on Boxing Day last year. He had been thrown out of the New York New York nightclub for being too drunk.

The trial has heard the "predators" robbed him of his wallet and mobile phone before throwing him in the Great Ouse River in Bedford in the early hours of December 27. His body was not found until eight days later by police divers.

Teen pulled from Blue Lake dies

http://www.kgw.com/news-local/stories/kgw_070408_news_near_drowning.240ae969.html

July 6, 2008 By NICK BRADSHAW, kgw.com Staff

OREGON - A 19-year-old man who was hospitalized after nearly drowning at Blue Lake Park, died early Saturday morning. The first call for help came shortly before 6:00 p.m. at a very crowded Blue Lake Park in Fairview.

Police said the teen, who was identified as Shane



Crews work to resuscitate a teen pulled from the water at Blue Lake. kgw.com

Joshua Stumpo, became exhausted in the cold water and simply could not keep his head above water.

A woman swimming with teen said she called for help and a park worker dove in and pulled Stumpo to shore. Rescue crews performed CPR for several minutes before taking the teen to the hospital.



Firefighters were not sure how long he was underwater.

Cow rescued from mud

<http://www.newswales.co.uk/?section=Community&F=1&id=14619>

10/7/2008

UK - Firemen were called to a river in a field in Nantmor, near Porthmadog, to rescue a cow stuck on the muddy river bank. A crew from Porthmadog, the specialist emergency tender from Caernarfon and the water rescue unit from Betws Y Coed found the Welsh Black cow stranded on a muddy river bank. It appeared to have been stranded for around an hour.

Firefighters in protective equipment attached straps to the animal and its owner used his tractor to help pull her

to safety. The cow has since been checked and appears to be fit and well.

Glyn Jones, County Operations Manager for Gwynedd, said: "The crews worked together effectively and we were able to successfully strap up and pull out the distressed cow. The farmer also worked well with the firefighters and showed good knowledge of animal husbandry, which assisted us during the incident. Thanks to the swift actions of all involved the cow was rescued and is now safe and well."



Horse freed after dramatic river rescue

<http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&tBrand=EDPOnline>

09 July 2008 **CHRIS HILL**

UK - A horse was rescued from a Fenland river this morning after a two-hour recovery mission by the fire service - and a helping hand by a villager.

Norfolk firefighters were called at 8.22am after the horse was reported to be stuck in the Middle Level Drain at Three Holes, near Downham Market. Crews from Outwell and King's Lynn, including a rescue vehicle and specialist

water support unit, tried to secure a harness on the horse by using a dinghy, but struggled to keep up as the animal swam through the water.

However, 25-year-old Dorne Arlington stepped in to help and waded into the water to secure a harness around the horse.

A Hero's Thank You

<http://southwesternontario.ctv.ca/news.php?id=2156>

Jul. 12 2008

RESCUE CAUGHT ON TAPE –
[Go to the web site to see the video](#)

Ontario, Canada - Torrential down pours in Southwestern Ontario have led to some flooding in various towns and cities.

The large puddles may look like a lot of fun for kids ... but as we first told you last night it can prove to be pretty dangerous. Friday our cameras caught a dramatic water rescue on tape. Today the boy plucked from the water is thanking his hero.



Daring River Rescue of 2 in Coosa River

<http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8668337>

July 14, 2008 [Daniel Curtis](#)

Wetumpka, Alabama - A dramatic late-night rescue on the Coosa river. Four Prattville residents decided to go rafting in the dark Saturday night around 9 p.m.

Soon after their trip began it took a dangerous turn. Brittney Hines and Thomas McGinty will always see the Coosa river in a different way. "We're very lucky that we didn't die," said Thomas McGinty, who spent hours stuck in the Coosa river.

Late Saturday night the pair went rafting down the Coosa with some friends, but things took a frightening turn when the raft they were on burst, leaving them stranded in the river. To make matters worse neither one had a life jacket and Brittney didn't know how to swim. "I was just really worried and I was just worried about keeping her warm she was cold and I knew that sooner or later somebody would come," said McGinty.

Brittney and Thomas climbed onto a rock in the river and waited for help. That help finally arrived after Wetumpka police and fire crews trekked four miles along the riverbank. "We are very fortunate that the good lord was

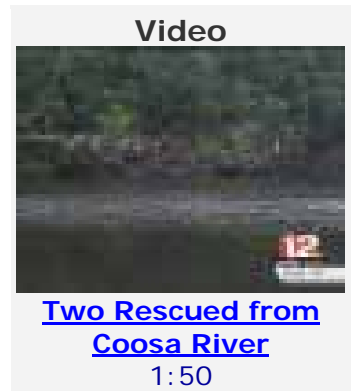


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watching over these two young people. This could have turned out to be a very tragic incident,"

said Lt. Rhonda Sanders of the Wetumpka Police Department.

Chris Carter owns Coosa River Adventures, a adventure business that offers canoeing and kayaking trips. He says going out at night is something he doesn't recommend. "Life jackets, life jackets, life jackets we preach it all the time," said Carter.



A mistake McGinty and Hines will never make again. "If you can't swim don't get in the river without a life jacket," said Brittney Hines.

Words of advice these two survivors are glad to share.

Rescue Rehearsal

http://www.mwcsun.com/local/local_story_196095845.html
July 14, 2008

Oklahoma - After the monumentous rains that occurred last summer, particularly the flooding in Kingfisher, the Del City Fire Department decided it needed to take a proactive approach to water rescue. It's not a problem the department has dealt with before, but some things are better resolved before it's too late.

The Del City pool, Eagle Harbor, is located directly behind the station house and its waters served as training ground for the exercises. The water slide provided the current.

With all the creeks in this area, rescuing someone from dangerous running water is a hazard that could someday become a reality, according to Jerimiah Hoffstatter of the Oklahoma State Fire Service Training. It's easy for someone to quickly get in over their head when water as shallow as a couple of feet can pack an overwhelming punch. "If anybody gets trapped, we'll go in and assist them," Hoffstatter said. He served as the coordinator of the exercises.

The members of the Del City fire department were put through a number of drills in an effort to better prepare them for real-world situations, something all three shifts will go through. Some of the practice runs were done in the water and others were done from the shore as every attempt is made to keep the fire fighters themselves out of harm's way as much as possible.

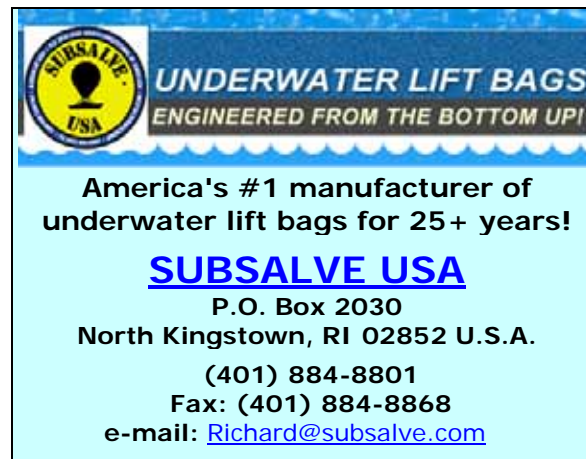
One of the out-of-water rescue drills involved a fireman being spit out of the water slide while one of his colleuges stood ashore and attempted to fish him out with a throw bag. A throw bag is a device with a 50 or 75 foot rope tightly wrapped up in it that a rescuer can propel toward a person in a dangerous situation. This way, the fire fighter does not have to expose himself to the dangers of the water, because as Hoffstatter puts it, you never know

what's under the water. "We use any rescue [technique] before actually jumping in [the water]," Hoffstatter said.

But if a situation does involve more direct contact from a rescue worker, they won't hesitate to lend assistance. "It's going to have its dangeros spots, but that's what they're [fire fighters] there for."

As far as getting into a wet spot, the department did practice a couple of drills for that very situation. Because of the unique and often overwhelming force presented by raging water, one technique was specifically designed to increase navigation. Here the fireman in the water would line up in a centipede-like maneuver. The front guy would take the brunt of the punishment, but more mobility was achieved through cooperation.

The other exercise was a bit more combative. Whenever a group of guys get into a pool, it's pretty expected that some sort of dunking will ensue. But here, it actually served a purpose. Often because of the fear and danger associated with the risk of drowning, a potential victim will panic and do whatever they think will protect their own well-being. This panic can result in a person flailing about and actually endangering the person trying to rescue them. During the drill, the target will attempt to push the rescuer under water while he tries to deliver him to safety.



The advertisement features a blue and yellow color scheme. At the top left is a circular logo with a lightbulb and the text 'SUBSALVE USA'. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'UNDERWATER LIFT BAGS' in large white letters on a blue background, with 'ENGINEERED FROM THE BOTTOM UP!' in smaller white letters below it. The main body of the ad is light blue and contains the following text: 'America's #1 manufacturer of underwater lift bags for 25+ years!' in bold black font, followed by 'SUBSALVE USA' in large blue underlined font. Below that is the address: 'P.O. Box 2030, North Kingstown, RI 02852 U.S.A.', the phone number '(401) 884-8801', the fax number 'Fax: (401) 884-8868', and the email address 'e-mail: Richard@subsalve.com'.

The Del City Fire Department has a close partnership with Eagle Harbor. Men from the station often use it for exercise and recreational purposes but this is the first time they've used it as a means to train for possible rescue situations.

Flood waters sweep man into wash

http://www.fox11az.com/news/topstories/stories/KMSB_20080720_dc_jh_wash.765a5330.html

July 20, 2008 By Delane Cleveland, Fox 11 News

A family is in mourning after monsoon rains on Saturday, July 19, swept away a man after his car stalled in a wash. Crews are looking for the body of 28-year old Roy Harris.



Video: Crews Train For Swift Water Rescues [Click Photo](#)

"At this moment, it's just a lot of tramping through the dirt and the mud, and see what we can see," says Jane Larkindale of the Southern Arizona Rescue Association. She is one of more than a dozen volunteers helping TPD search the banks of the Santa Cruz River for Harris's body.

Several hours of searching on Sunday turned up nothing. "It could also be buried in sand, could also be out in the

open but that's less likely," says Larkindale. "Eventually we'll end up having to do a line search and just check everything. That's the only way we're going to find it."

The ordeal began near the intersection of 15th and Mabel shortly before midnight. Police say Harris was driving down the street when his car stalled in the wash. He stepped out of the car, and the force of the water swept him into a tunnel. "We continue to tell people, please, if you don't have to be driving around during these monsoon times when you see the weather's very nasty, don't," says TPD Sergeant Fabian Pacheco. It's a mistake that Harris made, just one example of the many people who try driving through a fast-flowing wash. "All these washes feed into the Santa Cruz, and then on North all the way up to Marana," says Pacheco.

Now the search continues, as rescue workers try to bring closure to Harris's family. "It's hard every time," says Larkindale. "This is somebody that people care about. This is a person. It's not going to be easy anytime." And she says it won't be easy to find him until waters subside.

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Tucson Police say if you do get stuck in your vehicle, stay inside until rescuers arrive. Meantime, TPD says if anyone has information on Roy Harris's whereabouts, call 911.

RELATED STORIES:

Man swept away in Santa Cruz still missing

<http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8719513&nav=HMO6>

Tyler Wing reports



[Man swept away in Santa Cruz still missing](#)

The search for a Tucson man swept away by rushing waters has been called off. A neighbor told Tucson police raging waters carried 28-year-old Roy Harris down a culvert late Saturday night.

Parents seek help finding body of son swept away

'In dreams, you hear him calling out for help'

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/local/91799.php>

07.24.2008 [SHERYL KORNMAN](#) Tucson Citizen

Volunteer Firefighters Learn Water Rescues

<http://www.ketv.com/news/16937009/detail.html>

July 21, 2008

WATERLOO, Neb. -- Members of the Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department spent a weekend in the water, learning how to rescue people in flash floods and boating accidents.

They staged a mock canoe capsizing on the Elkhorn River, practicing how they would save six teenagers, had the situation been real. The scenario called for rescuers to save people with various injuries in different areas, using whistles and hand motions to communicate with each other

Some of the mock victims had to be taken to safety in a boat. Others were carried out of harm's way by hand. Brad Thavent of Lincoln Fire and Rescue was one of the people leading the training. He said water rescuers have to take a lot of things into account. "Look at the hazards in the water, where you can cross safely, the entanglement of the ropes, where there any rocks," he said.

Thavent said debris poses a particular danger, since flood water can carry anything from cars to tables or propane tanks.

Sherman & Denison firefighters receive swift water rescue training

<http://www.kxii.com/news/headlines/25778794.html>

July 22, 2008



GRAYSON COUNTY, Tex. -- With Hurricane Dolly expected to make landfall along the south Texas and northern Mexican coasts within the next 12 to 24 hours, we are reminded our area is no stranger to devastating floods. Deadly flood waters devastated many homes and families last summer. On Tuesday, local officials received training that could help save lives in the future. Emi FitzGerald explains.

Rescuers say more people die in flooding and rising water than any other disaster worldwide. With this in mind, Sherman and Denison firefighters are practicing their skills so they are ready in dangerous situations.

Firefighters swim into the waters of the red river acting as victims, waiting for someone to throw a rope to pull them to safety. "We do this so we can keep it in the front of our minds just like any other training we do," Lt. Nathan Huffman of the Sherman Fire Department says.

This is the first time Sherman and Denison firefighters have trained together, as part of a three-day swift water rescue training. "It's something we always need to keep in mind. We don't have the problems that some of the other parts of the country, but still it's still really important we keep



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up with this training, and that was proven last June 18th," Huffman says.

On June 18, 2007, crews performed multiple rescues. Just like that day, Tuesday's drills prepare firefighters for the next time disaster strikes.

"If the first one misses, we've got to have a backup of a backup because it's very hard to get a moving target," Captain Dennis Snyder of the Denison Fire Department says.

The Red River provides a good location for the training. Dallas area departments also use the river to hone their skills, as firefighters learn how to best work with the swift current. "We need as many resources as we can. You can never have enough people. You need 10, 15, maybe 20 people," Snyder says.

As two departments learn to depend on each other, they know both are prepared for the worst. Firefighters plan to continue their training Wednesday. They say the best way to prevent being trapped in high waters is to avoid them altogether. Turn around instead of driving through rising waters, but if you do find yourself trapped, try to grab onto a tree or find higher ground until help arrives.



Court: \$15K for folks of drowned boy was too rich

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/casey/5902481.html>

July 22, 2000 By [RICK CASEY](#) Copyright 2008 Houston Chronicle

Houston, TX - It has been only a week since two boys, one 4 and one 10, were crushed to death and a third injured when a staircase collapsed on top of them at their apartment building in southwest Houston.

Already a lawsuit has been filed on behalf of one of the families. The haste is unseemly even to some plaintiff's lawyers, but the lawyers who filed the suit claimed they needed to in order to keep the apartment owners from repairing the stairwell and thereby destroying evidence.

It wasn't so long ago that lawyers wouldn't have been rushing to sign up a case like this.

To put it brutally — as did the law in Texas and many other states — dead children weren't worth very much.

'No recovery for grief'

The reason is that for most of the 20th century, Texas law provided that juries could not compensate parents for a

negligent act by someone else that caused one of the most intense of agonies, the loss of a child.

A 1947 case decided by the Beaumont Court of Appeals summed up the law and its disregard for sentiment.

"It is a well settled rule of law that a parent is entitled to recover as his actual damages for the death of a child the pecuniary value of the child's services until he reaches his majority, less the cost and expense of the child's support, education and maintenance, and such sums as might be reasonably expected as contributions after the child reaches majority," the court ruled.

"(B)ut that no recovery may be had for mental anguish, grief, bereavement or loss of companionship, and it is well settled that some evidence of pecuniary loss is necessary to support a judgment of recovery."

Boy worth \$6,000 at most?

In the case, a small boy had drowned after falling into a water-filled pit dug by a subdivision developer to provide dirt for road grading. The pit was unfenced, and the jury found that the developer was negligent in leaving such a child magnet unenclosed. Jurors

awarded the parents \$15,000 for "pecuniary" damages and seemed to wish they could give them more for their pain.



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The jurors were appalled at the developer's action. The appellate judges were appalled at the jury's. "We have examined a great many authorities under this point and have concluded that the sum of \$15,000 is an excessive award under the facts of this case," they wrote, noting that \$15,000 was "the full amount" the parents sought. "No evidence is in the record showing that the little boy who was drowned possessed more than the ordinary qualities of a normal, healthy, willing child from whom his parents might expect normal services and contributions and for whom they might expect only the ordinary expense of care, maintenance and education," they continued. "An award in excess of \$6,000 should not be permitted to stand and appellant's contention in this regard is sustained."

Reading the opinion, you almost get the feeling the parents were lucky the appellate court didn't do a more careful accounting and find, quite logically, that the parents owed the developer money for relieving them of

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the financial burden of rearing a child.

That was the law until 1983, not exactly the Dark Ages. The civil rights movement had already bloomed, as had the women's

movement, Head Start and Medicare. That year, in a case called Sanchez vs. Schindler, the Texas Supreme Court threw out the "well settled rule of law" and

allowed parents to be compensated for the pain, suffering and lack of companionship caused by the death of a child.

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Activist judges? Yes, and they defended themselves by writing that they "should not be bound by the prior legislative inaction in an area like tort law which has traditionally been developed primarily through the judicial process."

In other words, if the legislators wouldn't pass laws to stop the injustice caused by previous activist judges, they would do it themselves. Sort of like the group of activist judges who undid the activist work of judges who ruled that schools could be separate but equal.

A swing the other way

In 1986, Houston lawyer Richard Mithoff made the front page of the National Law Review by winning the first multimillion dollar settlement (\$2 million) in Texas for the parents of a teenager killed in an accident at a Baytown petrochemical plant.

From then on, the pendulum swung in the direction of the plaintiffs, until business interests won influence over the Legislature and the Texas Supreme Court and pressed tort reform measures. Now the pendulum has swung back with a variety of new laws and court rulings.

The strictest, however, have been in the medical arena. Parents can still win substantial awards for the death of a child but, says Mithoff, the amount usually depends on "an exemplary family and a punishing set of facts regarding the death."

It also depends on having a skilled lawyer. We all should hope the family that has already sued in the Westwood Fountains apartment tragedy didn't rush (or weren't rushed) into a mistake.

Fear of successful lawsuits is a very useful deterrent for egregiously bad maintenance by landlords.



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Gorakhpur flooded with rainwater

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/gorakhpur-flooded-with-rainwater_10075372.html

July 24th, 2008

Gorakhpur, India: Incessant rains have caused flooding in several villages across Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Rising water levels in the Ghaghra and Kuano rivers has flooded the several villages causing massive loss to crops and property. According to reports, floodwaters have cut off hundreds of villages.

"If the government or the God do not come to our rescue soon, we will all die"

Villagers complain that their villages are inundated for the past one-week and fear an outbreak of water-borne diseases. "Water is all around us. There is no drinking water, no food and no oil to cook. If the government or the God do not come to our rescue soon, we will all die," said Nikshed, a villager. Villagers said that snakes and other reptiles frequent the floodwaters in search of safer habitats.

Meanwhile, the authorities said that they were making best efforts to reach out to the affected villages and provide relief material. "Today in Gorakhpur, about five villages are completely flooded and have been cut off from the mainland. We have ordered relief material to these areas and there is no communication with another village," said P.K. Mohanty, Commissioner, Gorakhpur.

Five rivers in the region, the Sharda, the Ghagra, the Rapti, the Budhi Rapti and the Kuano have crossed the red mark and are flowing above the danger level. (ANI)

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

Size Does Matter - When Choosing a Life Jacket

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/29166/>
July 05, 2008: [Tom Vargo](#)

In the United States an average of nine people a day die as a result of drowning - deaths that could have been prevented.

But a life jacket that does not fit properly can put a person at risk of drowning. Proper fit is imperative for safety on the water. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has a few tips to follow when choosing a life jacket.

- ◆ Choose only a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved life jacket, and the correct size for the weight of the person. The USCG stamp of approval, size, whether it is for a child or an adult, and the appropriate weight of the wearer should be listed inside the jacket. A person's chest size and

The U. S. Coast Guard classifies personal watercraft, PWC, as inboard boats. That means personal watercraft are subject to the same rules and requirements as any other powerboat plus additional requirements specific to PWC.

Because PWCs are not equipped with navigation lights operation is prohibited at night and during times of restricted visibility.
http://www.boatingbasiconline.com/course/boating/7_6.php

stomach size may come into play when selecting the right life jacket.

- ◆ Use the "touchdown" test to see if your life jacket fits properly; lift your arms above your head as if calling a touchdown. The chest portion of the jacket should not touch your chin when you look left, right or over your shoulder. If the jacket passes this test, it most likely fits. If possible try it out in shallow water. The life jacket should not ride up on your body. However, ride-up may happen if your stomach is larger than your chest.
- ◆ Weigh a child and measure for chest size under the arms before shopping for a child's life jacket. A properly fitting jacket should be snug but not tight.
- ◆ Check for proper fit of a life jacket on a child. Wearing the jacket, the child should stand normally with arms at his or her sides. Grab the jacket at the shoulders and firmly lift up. The jacket does not fit if it moves more than three inches up and down the child's body during the test.
- ◆ Ensure a life jacket for an infant or child has a crotch strap to help keep the life jacket on, an oversized float collar to help keep the head out of the water and a grab loop for easier water rescue. All straps should be intact and fastened at all times.

EVENTS

So what is the safest life jacket? In terms of risk of drowning, the safest life jacket is the one you're willing to wear! There are many good choices to keep safe on the water. Some of the choices are better for certain situations than others, and therefore the choices are explained in the "Think Safe" life jacket pamphlet that is sold with every US Coast Guard approved life jacket. By reading the pamphlet, you can understand how to safely have fun on the water.

So what about the cost - aren't life jackets expensive? Just keep in mind that no one thinks about the cost when they are in the water. The value of a life jacket could be priceless.

Related links

For more information about life jacket types, visit www.safeboatingcampaign.net/types.htm
www.boatingsidekicks.com/lifejackets.htm

For more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary, call (816) 682-6552 or visit us online at www.cgaux.net

Visual Distress Signals

All vessels used on coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas, and those waters connected directly to them, up to a point where a body of water is less than two miles wide, must be equipped with U.S.C.G. Approved visual distress signals.

Large Animal Emergency Rescue Course Offered at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky

[PSDiver Subscriber RATE - CLICK HERE!!](#)

Hagyard Equine Medical Institute will offer extensive three-day training courses in large animal emergency rescue techniques **August 18-20, and August 22-24**, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky. This training is designed to educate first responders such as firefighters, police and other rescue personnel, veterinarians, and individual horse owners.

Drs. Rebecca and Tomas Gimenez will instruct and provide hands-on training of rescue and transport of a recumbent horse, containment of large animals, mud and water rescue, trailer accidents, and nighttime search and rescue. (Read more about this training at [Emergency Training Emphasizes Horse Handling Skills, Practical Equipment.](#))

Limited space is available, and pre-registration is required. The course cost is \$350 (includes lunch all three days). Veterinarians are approved for 22.5 hours of Continuing Education for this program.

For more information, contact Nicole Tomlinson at 859/685-3709.

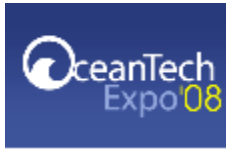
OceanTech Exp 08

<http://www.oceantechexpo.com>

30 September 08 - 3 October 08

Providence, Rhode Island, USA

[PSDiver Subscriber Admission Info CLICK HERE!!](#)



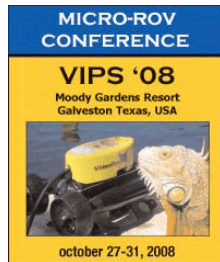
VideoRay International Partner Symposium (VIPS)

<http://www.videoray.com/VIPS/>

Moody Gardens Resort, Galveston

Texas USA 2008

October 27-30, 2008



VIPS is the world's premier Micro-ROV conference for Public Safety Divers and Search & Rescue organizations. This year's conference will include numerous seminars and workshops detailing the latest Micro-ROV technology and SAR techniques for PSD Professionals. Seasoned Search & Rescue personnel will administer this year's courses Hands on activities including a wide area mock drowning scenario played out from start to finish.

[PSDiver Subscriber Admission Info CLICK HERE!!](#)

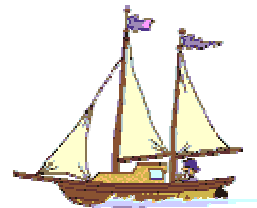
Other Events of Interest – no discount or special arrangements has been negotiated for these. [Click Here](#)

PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education

The logo for ERDI (Emergency Response Diving International), featuring a globe and the text "ERDI EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVING INTERNATIONAL".	<p>ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.</p>
<p>The 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.</p>	The logo for the Public Safety Diving Association (PSDA), featuring a star with a cross and the text "PUBLIC SAFETY DIVING ASSOCIATION".

PSDM-CE-53 * Nautical

- 1) The rear or back of a boat is called_____?
 - a. Back
 - b. Rear
 - c. Stern
 - d. Head
- 2) To go to the left you would call out the _____ side
 - a. Port
 - b. Starboard
 - c. Left
 - d. Gee



- 3) What is the primary steering mechanism of a Boat
 - a. Engine
 - b. Port or Starboard Sail
 - c. Rudder
 - d. Captain
- 4) Why were the captain's quarters placed at the back of the boat (sailing)
 - a. Better ventilation
 - b. Would not be involved in a head-on collision
 - c. Wanted to see shore as he left
 - d. Was away from the head
 - e. A & D
- 5) Why was the head of the boat called "the head"
 - a. It was in the front
 - b. Early ships had a woman's figurehead in the front
 - c. It was the first to reach port
 - d. None of the above
- 6) Rudder amidship means _____
 - a. Stop
 - b. Full speed ahead
 - c. Go backwards
 - d. Straight ahead
- 7) What is a Jib?
 - a. A sail
 - b. A Japanese sailor
 - c. Fish lunch
 - d. Home port
- 8) What is the boat keel?
 - a. Bottom center lengthwise
 - b. Food storage compartment
 - c. 2nd captain
 - d. Deck hand
- 9) Keel Hauling was ?
 - a. Punishment
 - b. Dry hull cleaning
 - c. Towing a disabled ship
 - d. Sanding the bottom of the boat
- 10) The "chine" of a boat refers to _____?
 - a. The bell
 - b. The engine
 - c. The curve at the water line
 - d. The steering wheel
- 11) The galley is the _____ of a boat.
 - a. Bathroom
 - b. Captains room
 - c. Crew Quarters
 - d. Food area
- 12) Early ships used flags to communicate.
 - a. True
 - b. False

TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

RECOMMENDED Information Source:

<http://www.boatingbasiconline.com/>

This is an ONLINE COURSE available to your team!

- ✚ Describe the USCG nav aids and describe local examples.
- ✚ Who has the "right of way" on the water?
- ✚ What are the regulations concerning wake effects, wake damage, and responsibility?
- ✚ What are the PFD Requirements for our boat?
- ✚ What are the Federal Regulations required for ALL personal watercraft?
- ✚ Most boating accidents occur when the weather is calm and clear and winds are light. Why do you think this is so?
- ✚ What training is your team *lacking* in regard to boats, PWCs and SELF RESCUE skills? Discuss training needs and outline a training day.



PSDiver Monthly Issue 53
ONLINE CROSSWORD – "It's a Killer"
[Click HERE](#)

OR... *if you can handle it ...*
PSDiver Monthly
[Issue 53 CROSSWORD CHALLENGE](#) –
Click HERE to download it from
www.PSDiver.com.

Join our PSDiver and Water Rescue
Discussion Group at:

(Just click the link or copy and paste the url
into your browser.)

[Public Safety Divers
Forum](#)

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-
PublicSafetyDiversForum](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum)

Thoughts to Get You Through the Month.

- ◆ Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
- ◆ Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.
- ◆ To avoid arguments with the wife about lifting the toilet seat – use the sink. Be polite and move the dishes first.
- ◆ If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of a laxative. It might not stop the cough but it sure will make you try not to.
- ◆ You only need two tools in life – WD40 and Duct Tape. If it moves and shouldn't, used the duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD40.
- ◆ If you can't fix it with a hammer – you have an electrical problem.

Some people are like slinkies – not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs ...
- ◆ I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore I am perfect.

- ◆ A good friend will come and bail you out of jail, but a true friend will be sitting next to you saying, "Damn, that was fun!"
- ◆ Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- ◆ Why is it that if someone tells you that there are 1 billion stars in the universe you will believe them, but if they tell you a wall has wet paint you will have to touch it to be sure?
- ◆ **The trouble with doing nothing is that you never know when you are finished.**

PSDiver Monthly is a free subscriber E-Zine distributed by Press Release notice and website download. We have a world wide distribution and a verified email subscriber list of over 12,000.

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Assistant Editor: [Dominique Evans-Bye](#)

Continuing Education Editor: [Chuck Elgin](#)

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Underwater Crime Scene Series



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Underwater Crime Scene Series Weapons and Body Recovery

PREPAID advanced registration - \$135.00 per person.
After November 23, 2008, registration will be \$165.00.
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Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received prior to 3 weeks before the start
date of the class will receive a full refund. Cancellations

received 8-14 days prior
to class start date will
receive a 50% refund.
Cancellations received 0-
7 days prior to class start
date will not receive a
refund.



Medical and Liability Release Forms

Standard scuba medical release forms must be completed
and submitted before students will be allowed to
participate in any diving activity. The forms can be
downloaded at www.PSDiver.com and may be
submitted in advance or at the start of the course.

*Medical conditions that require a physician release will
disallow divers participating in the scuba exercises if a
medical release is not presented PRIOR to the start of the
programs.

Prerequisites: Scuba participants MUST be a minimum of
OW certified. **Water skills will be tested.**

Students MUST participate in all evolutions to qualify for
certificate of completion and payment will NOT insure
certificate.

Participants must provide their own basic scuba gear. If
necessary, some extra gear will be available but
prearrangement will be required to insure you will have
what you need. Please bring tanks and weights if you are
driving. Air refills will be provided at no cost.

At least 2, rigged 13cf Pony bottles per team are REQUIRED. Pony bottles will be available at the facility at no charge BUT numbers are limited.

Underwater Crime Scene Specialties

The **Underwater Crime Scene Specialties** are designed to present a new aspect of Public Safety Diving to Fire, Police and SAR Dive Recovery Teams. These courses offer classroom lecture, theory, controlled pool work and real dive scene scenario training. Participants will be introduced to a variety of new skills and will be shown and allowed to practice, safety measures and techniques that should enhance their skills, operational safety and abilities.

Weapons and Body Recovery Course

Participants will gain classroom knowledge on evidence handling, terminology, safety issues, standards information and concepts of the job of a Public Safety Diver. Participants will practice those classroom skills to an acceptable level of proficiency in a clear water pool using blacked out masks and will gain real experience in methods of underwater search and recovery in the simulated zero visibility environments. During our scenario training, participants in the Weapons and Body Recovery Course will successfully perform a search and evidence recovery of at least one weapon and will successfully perform a body recovery. Participants will also be challenged with an underwater obstacle / confidence building course that will test their ability to handle a variety of stressors including entrapment

problems and self rescue issues.

Each scenario is a separate crime scene and the participants will be responsible for assessing the site, gathering intelligence, setting up the dive and recovering either a weapon or a body. Each team must complete the recovery and submit all documentation related to their task to successfully complete the course



GPD Dive Academy



Public Safety Diving Association

ERDI



For more information or to pre-register, contact Sgt. Ronny Phillips.

Or email: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

**Galveston PD Training Division
Sgt. Ronny Phillips
Training Officer**



email: **RPHILLIPS@ci.galveston.tx.us**
Phone 409-765-3642