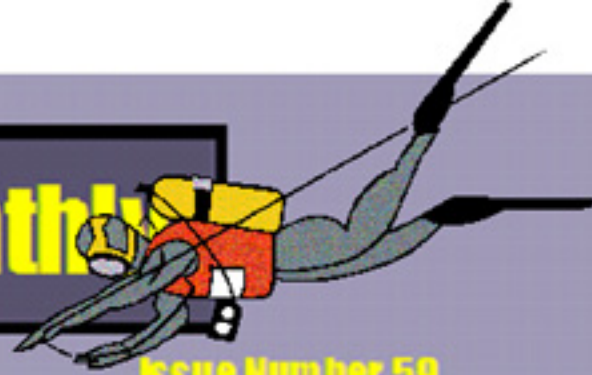




PSDiver Monthly

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**“Times are getting tough –
Do you know where your
budget is?”**

**News,
Information You Can Use,
Continuing Education
and MORE!**

**MISSION REPORT:
Snowmobiler in the Fox River**





Greetings,

Times are getting tough. Businesses are no longer just cutting back, they are beginning to fail. Homeowners who have been looking for relief or some help to keep their homes are wondering where they will be sleeping next month. Workers who have been gainfully employed for the majority of their lives are being handed notices of termination and are being escorted off company property. Retirement accounts are worth less than half of what they were a year ago. Car payments can not be met and transportation to look for a new job is repossessed in the middle of the night. In desperation, some of those vehicles are being "stolen" and insurance claims filed.

The ripple effect of the current economic environment will eventually affect every one of us. Law enforcement will deal with greater numbers of "stolen" vehicle reports and an expanding variety of criminal activities. Fire departments will face larger numbers of suspicious fires and obvious arson. Dive teams will witness greater numbers of calls regarding submerged vehicles.

We do not hear of stock brokers jumping out of windows like the stories we were told in school when we studied the Great Depression. But we are reading about suicides,

cover-ups and attempts to escape criminal prosecution. No one knows how far the problems go or how deeply they are embedded into the business and financial worlds. Every day a new report seems to come out with more dire news.

Times are getting tough. Even the Body Farm at the University of Tennessee is seeing an increase in cadaver donations and will expand this summer. The reason can be speculated as higher funeral costs in a tough economy.

Times are getting tough at our team levels. Our departments are seeing budget cuts because of a decreasing tax base. Sales tax revenues are decreasing despite stimulus incentives. Our teams are being scaled down and those with budgets are seeing their budgets cut or eliminated. All the while, the workload on the departments is increasing. Special teams like a dive team or water response team are expendable and usually at the bottom of the food chain. The irony being that these teams perform work that is more dangerous than most any other within their departments.

What can WE do as a specialty team to survive? What do we do as a team to maintain a high state of readiness, safety and ability? How do we extend the life of our equipment without spending money unnecessarily?

I have some suggestions. (If you want to discuss these or have some suggestions of your own to share, let's do that on our discussion group at - [Public Safety Divers Forum](#). This is a moderated forum located in Yahoo Groups.)

- Inventory all your team and personal equipment. Determine what needs repair and what must be replaced. Repair what you can and replace what you must.
- It is not our ideal but if vital gear is not usable and there is no current budget or monies available for repair, consider sharing the gear that does work.
- Clean ALL your gear and do as much service as you can to each item. Review the manufacturers' guidelines or go on the Internet and find owner service instructions.
- Some of your gear is use specific. Some items such as rope, wire ties, clips and snaps, and anything else you may use, are not. Does the Haz-Mat team have extra? Does the Fleet Maintenance shop have rope or hardware you can use? Be like Klinger on MASH and scrounge what you can.
- Review and revise the Administrative and Operational Guidelines for your team. Determine if or what issues can



be handled with training only instead of buying use specific equipment.

- If things in your region are desperate and it is feasible, consider forming a regional response team from surrounding municipalities or volunteer groups. Combining resources may be a solution to building a stronger team but will require the cooperation everyone involved.
- Local businesses will likely have the same budget issues as your team. It is doubtful you will be able to find any local donations. If your team is allowed to accept donations, host a garage sale, bake sale, something that might bring in the money you need while engaging your community.
- As a team, be visible in your community. For example: Contact a local school district. Find a class willing to take on a community service project. Let them work on trash and litter collection at a waterside park while your dive team does the same underwater. The class can chart and document the varieties and quantities of litter and the dive team gains training time and public exposure. If a quantity of metal or aluminum cans are collected that can be sold for scrap – even better.
- If you have not started looking for grants yet, it is probably too late to help with your present

needs. However, if your team can survive the financial crunch you should be looking towards the future and exploring grant options. If your fire department team is involved with underwater crime scene investigation or evidence recovery, you should be working under the same basic guidelines and methodology as the LE requesting your services. Get a letter from the LE describing your teams use and function in regard to the work and services you provide LE. Once in hand, your fire department team should be able to expand grant application into the LE world as well as fire services.

The efforts we make now to search for grants, find alternative equipment sources, training and ways to fund our teams in the present will also benefit our teams in the future. The point is to find ways to use what you have more effectively and reduce your costs if money is an issue. That said; safety absolutely CANNOT be sacrificed to save a buck. If there is no money to correct equipment or safety issues that negatively impact your team members – your team can no longer function in its original format. A dive team may become a surface support team or a boat rescue team until funds and support return.

I expect to be chastised for suggesting that a dive team disband or host a bake sale or collect aluminum cans to sell.


Those who usually are the most critical are most often from well funded teams. Some smaller teams already do some of these things. Others look down with arrogance at those who struggle to maintain a presence in their world. Don't be one of them.

Larger, well funded teams will be able to absorb budgetary issues with more ease than a smaller team. The worst hit will be volunteer fire department teams whose members pay their own expenses and provide their own gear. They do not get paid to be fire fighters nor do they get paid to dive. They are the ones likely to be hurt first. They probably already know what it is like to have to host a bake sale in order to raise funds for a project. They are often the first teams to be disbanded. How many of us on funded teams would do what we do for free or even pay for the opportunity?

Times are tough now and will continue to get worse. There is no way of knowing how long before things change and we see progress. Budgets are usually annual so we can reasonably expect it to be a year or more before we see relief. Some teams will face very tough

choices and may have to scale down their teams or even disband.

A **Public Safety Diver**, in my opinion, is a professional diver. A PSDiver is not a commercial diver, scientific diver or recreational diver. We have made that abundantly clear over the years and even OSHA agrees

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with us. But the nomenclature only helps separate us; it does not give us direction. With no national standard and diminishing budgets and administrative support, we will have to depend and lean on each other. PSDiver.com and PSDiver Monthly are very small fish in a very big pond but we will continue to offer the support and resources we can provide. Our efforts are supported by our sponsor / advertisers and in the present day economy their continued presence is a testament of their dedication to you.

As I rant, I am predicting gloom and doom in the immediate future of special teams like ours. The goal of the rant is to prepare for a possible economic outcome that will have a harsh impact on our teams so we can develop strategies and action plans to mitigate the damage. If we look ahead two months, six months or a year, where do we see our teams? If we plan ahead now and are prepared, we have the potential to keep our teams intact and continue to serve our public safely.

The economic problems we face are temporary. Things will get better. Changes that are happening now may become permanent. It is how we manage to maintain our teams through these times that will determine how we exist in the future. Your attitudes, professionalism and determination will be stressed and challenged.

Throughout the coming months remember your role. Without your water rescue team there will be no one

available to rescue or recover the kid who thought he could shortcut across the frozen lake on his snowmobile. No team will be available to recover the body of the elderly fisherman who fell out of his boat. There will be no dive team in place to locate the missing child who was last seen playing near the pond. There will be no dive team to locate, document and recover evidence that could take a killer off the street.

Your teams are relevant. Your skills are necessary. No matter what the circumstances, your safety or the safety of your team cannot be compromised. If it becomes necessary and you have to alter or disband your team it will be hard to do. But working in the environments and conditions where we are needed with limited gear or impaired safety should not be an option. As a group we all agree that our team members have a right to refuse a dive they feel is unsafe or that they are not comfortable with. If it is necessary, apply that same concept to your team as a whole.

“Safety absolutely cannot be sacrificed to save a buck.”

Don't be too proud to ask for help or to stubborn to call off a dive operation. Always remember, we would rather talk with you instead of about you.

Stay Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly

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NEWS

Ill-fated ice man may have suffered two assaults

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/090128_otzi

Jan. 28, 2009 Courtesy Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and World Science staff

Scientists say they've revealed a new chapter in a murder case some 5,300 years old, reconstructing the timing of injuries that the world's oldest "ice mummy" suffered in his dismal final days.

The man now dubbed Ötzi "endured at least two injuring events in his last days, which may imply two separate attacks," said Andreas Nerlich, the study leader and pathologist at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany.

The naturally mummified body was found in 1991 in the Schnalstal glacier in the Ötztal Alps, near the Austria-Italy border. Ötzi is giving science critical information about late Stone Age life. His copper axe, for example, reveals that metalworking was much more advanced in that era than was previously assumed, scientists say. "Although the ice mummy has already been studied at great length,



Ötzi being examined by a doctor. (Image courtesy Ludwig Maximilians Universität München)

there are still new results to be gleaned," said Nerlich. "The crime surrounding Ötzi is as thrilling as ever!"

Not for Ötzi, though. "Some time ago, we detected a deep cut wound on Ötzi's hand that he must have survived for at least a couple of days," said Nerlich. "Another team at about the same time found an arrow tip in Ötzi's left arm-pit. The shaft of the arrow was missing, but there is an entry wound on the back."

Ötzi probably died of internal bleeding because the arrow hit a main artery, the scientists added. He survived the arrow wound in his back for a few minutes to a few hours, and also suffered a blunt-object blow to the back shortly before his death, according to Nerlich and colleagues; the hand slash is days older.

A few centimeters below the entry wound they detected an additional slight skin discoloration, probably caused by the blow, the researchers said. In cases, the researchers, using new detection methods, detected bleeding that was ultimately fatal.

Above the spine, they added, are more discolorations not associated with bleeding. These probably occurred after death, due to the interment, for example, said Nerlich, who worked with colleagues including Eduard Egarter-Vigl, head of the Institute for Pathology in Bolzano, Italy.

"Ötzi had only shortly survived the arrow wound and the blow on the back," Nerlich summarized. "At least a couple of days before his death, however, he sustained a severe

cut wound on his right hand. Over several days, then, Ötzi suffered at least two injuring events.”

In the 1990s, Austrian scientists found that Ötzi's last meal wasn't much to lift the spirits, either: a bit of hard bread. Klaus Öggl, a botanist from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, has said that it seems Ötzi died having wandered from a relatively hospitable valley—carrying almost no food—to try to cross a harsh mountain pass, but scientists aren't sure why he did it.

Nerlich's study appears in the January online issue of the research journal *Intensive Care Medicine*.

A crime scene, a confession and, 4 years later, a body

<http://www.thestar.com/GTA/Crime/article/580210>

Corpse in cement-laden bag recovered from lake after grow-op gang pleads guilty to manslaughter

Jan 31, 2009 PETER SMALL COURTS BUREAU

For four years, Toronto police wondered where Pei Ding Xu's body was. Investigators, led by Det. Martin Woodhouse, had a crime scene: the blood-strewn



Pei Ding Xu, 30, was tortured by grow-op gang after a case of mistaken identity. SUPPLIED PICTURE

marijuana grow-op in Scarborough where he was tortured in a case of mistaken identity.

They had a confession: from Wing Ching Chan, the 49-year-old grow-op boss who pleaded guilty to manslaughter two years ago. But they had no body.

Last week, however, the other four men charged in Xu's slaying told police where to look as part of a plea bargain, it was revealed yesterday.

On Tuesday morning, police divers pulled a nylon travel bag weighed down with two bags of cement from the bottom of Lake Ontario, 100 metres west of the ferry docks to Toronto Island Airport. Inside was Xu's decomposed body.

With guilty pleas to



View [an interactive map](#) of homicides in the Greater Toronto Area since 2005.

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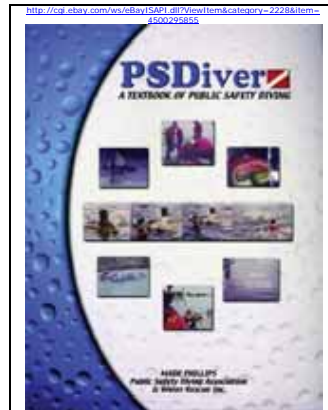


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manslaughter, aggravated assault, and forcible confinement, Ka Bon Chu, 29, Wei Feng, 33, Jin Seo Park, 33, and Ji Yang, 26, brought a close to a homicide mystery. Ontario Superior Court Justice John McMahon sentenced the men, who had no previous criminal records, to 18 years in prison, less pre-trial custody, calling their locating of the body a significant mitigating factor.

In a written victim-impact statement, Winnie Lui, Xu's common-law wife and mother to their 3 1/2-year-old daughter – she was pregnant when he was killed – said she had waited for his safe return. "Now after four years, I have my answer. My husband will never return." Prosecutor Sean Hickey read aloud the facts of Xu's death.

In 2005, Chan employed the four men to run a string of marijuana grow-ops in Scarborough. Early on Jan. 24, 2005, an alarm rang in a grow-op on Belinda Square, near Warden and Steeles Aves. Chan and his gang rushed over, worried rival gangs were trying to break in. All was secure.



PSDiver – A Textbook for Public Safety Diving by Mark Phillips is AVAILABLE ON-LINE NOW for PSDM Subscribers!

They left for a nearby McDonald's restaurant, where the gang spotted Xu and his friend Wei Shen Li in the parking lot. They wrongly assumed the men were rival gangsters responsible for the alarm. They abducted them and took them to a grow-op on Arnall Ave.

In the basement, Chan's four employees beat the men, trying to get them to confess to the break-ins. They burned Li with cigarettes, hit him with a metal rod, cut him with a knife and poured salt in his wounds. They ordered him to stab his semi-conscious friend Xu.

The four men removed wooden legs from a Hello Kitty children's table and used them to beat Xu. Xu, his face swollen and blood pouring from his mouth, begged to be taken to hospital. The gang considered doing so, but he died before they could decide.

Then, suddenly faced with yet another grow-op alarm, they rushed off to Wintermute Blvd., leaving Li handcuffed to an upstairs railing. He managed to escape.

On Wintermute, they got into a gunfight with a rival group, damaging nearby houses with stray shots. The gang made various attempts to get rid of Xu's body,



digging a hole at another grow-op house, before finally dumping him in the lake.

Expert changes view on Ngo murder weapon

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/expert-changes-view-on-ngo-murder-weapon/1422844.aspx>
3/02/2009 GEESCHE JACOBSEN CRIME EDITOR

A CORROSION expert who had cast doubt on evidence about the weapon used to murder the former Cabramatta MP John Newman has changed his mind.

In April Ian MacLeod told an ABC Four Corners program that evidence about the corrosion of the 1935 Beretta pistol "just doesn't stack up". But yesterday Dr MacLeod, principal conservator at the Western Australian Museum, agreed with another expert hired by the police that it was impossible to say how long the gun had been in the water.

Dr MacLeod was giving evidence at the inquiry into the conviction of Phuong Ngo for masterminding Mr Newman's murder in September 1994. The



inquiry was called after a submission by a Canberra academic to the NSW Chief Justice, Jim Spigelman, after an ABC television program that questioned Ngo's conviction.



The submission raised doubts about evidence on the Telstra mobile phone network, the independence of two witnesses, and the alleged failure to provide certain evidence to Ngo's defence team.

The program also questioned prosecution evidence about the gun that police divers found four metres deep in mud in the Georges River at Voyager Point in June 1998. Experts were asked to investigate how long the heavily corroded gun had been in the river.

Last year Dr MacLeod told the ABC: "I really cannot see how that [the gun being in the river for three years and nine months] could be the case. Either the gun was significantly corroded before it went in or there's something, something very strange about the amount of decay ... It just doesn't stack up ... decay on that gun just isn't consistent with what I have experienced in the corrosion world in the last 30 years."


It was alleged Ngo dumped the gun at Voyager Point on the night of the murder.

Evidence from the mobile phone network was used to determine he might have been near Voyager Point.

Last week Professor Reg Coutts, who wrote a report about the evidence on the mobile phone network, which was sent to Justice Spigelman, also gave evidence that differed from his report. Professor Coutts acknowledged that his report contained errors, was based on inaccurate and insufficient information, and concerned an area outside his expertise.

He had not been told Ngo had earlier said he had taken a detour on his way to a Vietnamese newspaper office, thereby placing him in the mobile phone reception area that covered Voyager Point.

Yesterday Dr MacLeod said his evidence at Ngo's trial was based on his incorrect understanding of the factors of corrosion of a gun in brackish water. He said he had failed



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to take account of the effect on the gun of bacteria in the polluted waterway.

Corrosion is influenced by oxygen, salinity, movement, temperature, chloride levels, pollutants and microbiological activity, the inquiry heard. Dr MacLeod examined the pistol again and so-called pits from corrosion. In his revised report he said calculations provided "immersion periods that are consistent with" Crown claims that "the gun was immersed for a period of 3.75 years".

In the witness box he agreed - except for a minor technical point - with the report of a UNSW engineering professor, David Young, who had been commissioned by the police. Professor Young's report finds: "In the absence of information on the chemical, bacterial and vegetable matter content of the sediment, and in the absence of sufficient information on the water chemistry, it is not possible to estimate the corrosion rate to be expected of steel in this environment."

Dr MacLeod said he did not take any samples of the water or sediment in 1998. The inquiry continues.



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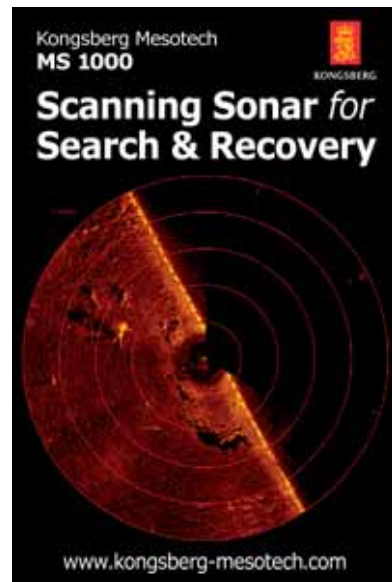
Diving search called off for Whitesburg Bridge jumper

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2009/02/diving_search_called_off_for_w.html
February 02, 2009 By [Patricia McCarter](#)

HUNTSVILLE, AL - After a weekend of diving to look for a Harvest man who jumped into the Tennessee River at Lacey's Spring, rescue units have stopped the fulltime search. Morgan County Chief Deputy Mike Corley said this morning that rescue divers have completed their work. Other officials will do "random checks" along river banks to try and find the man who presumably plunged to his death Friday afternoon.

Authorities have identified the jumper as Gerry Dale McBride, 49, of Amber Lane in Harvest. Corley said when officers realized the man was deaf, they contacted a person with the Huntsville Police Department who knew sign language to come communicate with him.

Corley said his deputies, with the help of the Huntsville Police Department, tried to talk the man down from the bridge on U.S. 231 South but couldn't. He jumped while the interpreter was on the



way.

The man kept climbing higher and higher on the south side of the bridge before taking his shirt off and leaping into the water shortly after 2 p.m.

HEMSI rescue boats were close to the spot where the man dove into the Tennessee River, but the man never resurfaced for paramedics to pull him out, said HEMSI Chief Operations Officer Don Webster. The water was too cold and dangerous for divers at the time.

State police diver has damp, dangerous job: finding crime clues beneath the surface

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090201/BIZ/902010323>
February 01, 2009 By Sheldon Scruggs

Where Kevin Gardner works, the rest of us wouldn't want to go. He is the Troop F senior scuba diver with the New York State Police. In his cold and murky world, well below the surface, the stuff of nightmares lies in wait. It's his job to retrieve them. This is no Club Med vacation where you dive in clear and pristine waters. His



Eric Schultz Officials respond to an apparent suicide jump from the Whitesburg Bridge on Friday

dives are potentially dangerous and dark, as in zero visibility.

The Record spoke to Gardner about it. Welcome to his world:

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In their words

This is one in a weekly series that gives workers in unique professions the chance to tell their stories. To read other stories, go to: www.recordonline.com/business

We search for all kinds of things that are related to a crime: bodies, cars, weapons. And 95 percent of the time, we cannot see, so we must feel around in the murky water slowly and methodically, one square foot at a time. We use underwater metal detectors and sonar equipment also to help us locate some objects.

Yes, feeling around yuck and in the mud for people and things can be a little



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unsettling. However, it's relatively easy to identify a body if you touch something that feels like a face or a hand. It's much the same for a revolver or a rifle. Other objects may be a little harder to discern. We bring them up to see what we've got. It may be something or maybe not.

In 2003, a big ship named the Stellamare capsized in the Port of Albany. Some crew members drowned. Divers always dive in pairs, and my partner and I had to swim through the cabins of this upside-down ship to look for bodies. The ship was as large as a football field, the water was icy cold, our gear kept freezing up and, as usual, we couldn't see well.

I was swimming through an area of the ship when, all of a sudden, one of these big, heavy chains, like the type that holds the ship's anchor, unraveled from somewhere above me and slid down just inches from my face. Had it struck me, I would have had problems, to put it mildly. I was startled and disoriented.

The situation wasn't safe, but I remembered my training. I remained calm. I coached myself through the moment. My partner and I were tethered to a line



above the surface. All I had to do was follow the line back — but that's not as easy as it sounds. We had to navigate through narrow passageways. For all practical purposes, we're blind, and we never knew what we're going to bump into.



State Trooper Kevin Gardner emerges from a dive in Crystal Lake in the City of Newburgh. He is holding a shotgun that might have been used in a crime.

One aspect of training that prepares us for this sort of thing is what's called "culvert diving." We must navigate through a narrow channel of nasty, swamp-like water. We can only move forward and back. We have zero visibility and if a person is claustrophobic, he or she is not going to make it.

If a recruit panics in deep water and darts to the surface too quickly, the bends will result. We have to allow our bodies an adjustment period to get used to less pressure on the body. Training in this narrow channel, which, for all practical purposes, is like swimming through a drainpipe, is what prepares us for all kinds of situations when we're 40 to 100 feet below the surface.

As the senior diver, I supervise eight other divers. I have their respect and they trust me. Their lives are literally in

my hands. It's an awesome responsibility for me to be in charge of others.

Lately, we've been looking for Laura

Garza. When someone determines that Michael Mele may have been in a certain area, and there's a body of water nearby, we're called. So far we've searched a pond in New Windsor, Echo Lake in Wawayanda and Silver Lake. We'll keep diving to look for her as long as we're called; that's what we signed up to do.

It's satisfying to find what you're looking for, and especially if it involves a missing person. I've seen a lot of grieving, anxious family members who watch us work at the dive sites. Their anguished faces are hard to take sometimes. But when we find something, I know that inside, under all the pain and hurt, there's a sense of relief and peace for them. Finding someone brings closure and finality. And that's a good thing. I'm glad that we help to that extent.

I've been a trooper for 12 years, and I love what I do. I can't imagine doing anything else. I work at a job the general public will never experience. It's exciting. It's living on the edge. sscruggs@th-record.com



Court hears how bags with body parts were disposed of

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/07/newsstory12608458t0.asp>
2-7-09 By Alan Wilson and Graham Brown

ALEKSANDRAS SKIRDA told the court three bags were placed into a single Lidl carrier bag and the pair got on a bus from Brechin.

CCTV images were then played in court, showing two men who Skirda identified as himself and Plytnykas, boarding a bus in Brechin at 12.43pm on March 29. The pair were seen to take their seats on the coach alongside other passengers, including children, with Skirda saying he kept hold of the bag on the floor.

They were then picked up on CCTV amongst the throng of Saturday shoppers on Arbroath High Street, Skirda still holding the carrier bag. He said they then went to the harbour and threw the head and hands into the water. Skirda said Plytnykas threw the bags into the sea because "he had more strength."

The two men then went back to Brechin by taxi, but



Skirda told the court that before leaving Arbroath, Plytnykas bought a baby stroller from Argos in the town, paid for by cash obtained using Jolanta's bank card.



The witness said that the following day he and Plytnykas had been given a lift by a Polish man to Dundee where they went shopping for "a couple of hours" and he bought trainers. He told the court he had been given £100 each day for a number of days, all the money given to him by Plytnykas. "You of course pled guilty to the murder of Jolanta Bledaite and also to stealing £1400 in total. Are you telling us that your share of that was half, £700," asked Mr Prentice, to which Skirda replied "Yes."

The court heard the pair then set about disposing of the suitcase containing the torso. He said Plytnykas told the Polish man who gave them a lift to Arbroath on the day after the murder that they had the suitcase and bags to help someone move, and the Polish man was unaware of what they contained.

The witness told the court after the man drove away, Plytnykas took the bags, which contained clothing and

bedding, behind a fence and put them in wheelie bins near the Lidl supermarket, which the jury saw photographs of.

The jury was then shown CCTV footage of two men, again identified by Skirda as himself and Plytnykas, walking in High Street, Arbroath, with Skirda pulling the suitcase behind him.

The man identified as Plytnykas was then seen walking along the harbour wall on another CCTV camera at the harbour at 8pm, while still daylight. The next footage showed the harbour in semi darkness at 8.36pm and seven seconds, and Skirda said they waited until it was dark to dispose of the body. Seconds later both men were seen walking in the opposite direction along the harbour wall without the suitcase. Skirda explained, "We had just thrown it into the sea. Vitas had to help me lift up the suitcase and we dropped it over the wall."

"Could you have lifted it yourself?" Mr Prentice asked. "No," he said, adding that they were on the steps when they dropped the suitcase in the sea.

Skirda agreed he later took police to the spot and the jury were shown photos of police divers



recovering the suitcase. Along with photos of the black bag and stone inside it, the jury were shown the image of Jolanta's torso in the open case.

Asked to describe their movements after disposing of the body, Skirda said they got a taxi back to Brechin and each man went home to their own flat. He said he went to work the next day and reported to the works manager, telling him Jolanta had moved out.

Two days later he heard on the radio a head had been found on the beach and he had telephoned Plytnykas to tell him the news. He said the other man was shocked but they didn't discuss what should be done.

Skirda told the court he had been at work on the Wednesday and had gone home afterwards, but was called by the manager and told to return to work where police were waiting to speak to him. He said they told him they were investigating a case where a head had been found and it could be his flatmate.

They asked a couple of questions and, asked by Mr Prentice what he told them he said, "What I told them was



not the truth. I said I had been out all day with Vitas. I didn't tell them about the suitcase."



He said when he went to his flat that night the police had decided to preserve the crime scene and officers took him to Plytnykas' flat and he stayed there.

The pair discussed everything that had happened and, asked what Plytnykas was like, Skirda replied, "He was nervous and trying to figure out what to do." He told the court he had tried to use one of the bank cards on the Thursday in Brechin but it had already been used up to its maximum by Plytnykas. He said he was again interviewed by police where he said he was not truthful at first. "I lied about everything, I told them Jolanta had moved out. Eventually I told them the truth, I told them it was Vitas who cut off her head and hands."

Skirda agreed he later told the police he had "done the cutting." "I said it was me because I wanted to protect Vitas and take the blame for myself." Mr Prentice then asked, "What is the truth? Who cut the head off Jolanta?" Skirda replied, "It was Vitas."

The jury was shown a length of grey gaffa tape with some of Jolanta's hair stuck to it as Mr Prentice came to the conclusion of Skirda's evidence in chief.

Boy, six, dies following ice fall

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7877122.stm

8 February 2009

A six-year-old boy has died after falling through ice into a fishing pond near Pontefract on Saturday.



Tributes have been left at the scene

The child and another boy, aged 12, had been on the ice near Red Lane in Streethouse when it cracked, sending them both into the water below. The older boy was pulled from the pond, but the six-year-old had to be recovered by fire service divers. He was airlifted to Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, but was pronounced dead at 1905 GMT.

The 12-year-old was taken to the same hospital where he is believed to be well but suffering from the effects of the cold water. Local residents tried to reach the boys after another child

raised the alarm at about 1420 GMT.

David Powell, whose eight-year-old son had been at the pond when the ice broke, said: "When we arrived I didn't know there were two boys. "I could see one holding on to something above the surface of the water and my thought was relief that he was OK. "Then I

realized there was a second boy. People were obviously trying to get him out, with tree branches and jumpers tied together. "People were jumping on the ice, trying to break it and get through but it was really thick. Once you got under there would be no way you could get back."



Local residents tried to reach the boy but the ice was too thick

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service sent 35 rescuers to the scene where they found the 12-year-old clinging to a block of ice on the surface. He was pulled from the water while six officers in diving gear waded into the pond to reach the younger boy.

Station manager Rick Hemmingway was one of the crew who attended. He said: "Obviously for anyone who has children it is a very difficult situation. "The firefighters themselves showed their professionalism and went into the

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water solely to find the little boy."

Police continued to patrol the area around the pond overnight.

State Police train for ice rescue

<http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/2009/02/12/State-Police-train-for-ice/1234481276.html>

February 12, 2009 Katie Daly, NECN

 [Video on Site](#)

Worcester, MA - As the weather starts to warm up and people head outside, police are reminding people to stay off the ice. Even during refreezes, the thin ice can crack under the slightest weight.



A break in the ice on the Quabbin Reservoir and State Police respond.

This is just a training session for State Police to learn the steps involved in making an ice rescue. But in the next few weeks they say it is likely that they will put these life saving techniques to use as temperatures start to rise. "Right now as we get toward March all that ice is deteriorating and becomes dangerous to get on and off there is now open water this is where people make the

mistake of walking on the ice near the water and fall through."

The team is taught not

only how to save a person at the edge of the ice, but the more difficult rescue--someone trapped under the ice. "We'll have divers that will go underneath the ice sheet to actually be able to recover that is an issue everyone needs to understand is that people have been recovered that go below the ice surface for an hour in the winter."

And response time is key to saving a person in the frigid waters ...it only takes minutes for hypothermia to set in which can be fatal.

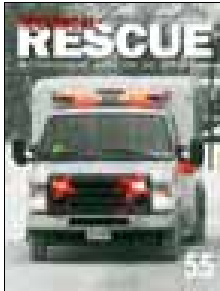
Bill would expand line-of-duty death benefits

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=86399>

February 13, 2009 **By Meg Tully**
News-Post Staff

ANNAPOLIS, MD -- A local state senator is trying to help the family of a Maryland state trooper who died last year. Sen. Alex Mooney has proposed two bills in memory of 1st Sgt. Tobin Triebel, a New Market resident who




	<p>Issue 55 Rope safety, Trauma-Tourniquets, Market Guides, Ontario EMS deals with epilepsy, Surfboards for swift water rescue?, MUCH MORE!</p> <p>http://t-rescue.com</p>
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was killed in November while on vacation in North Carolina. He was struck by a tree-trimming truck while jogging down a road.

The first bill would make Maryland State Police troopers eligible for death benefits if they die while exercising.

The second would increase the amount of optional insurance coverage that is offered to state employees whose jobs include risky situations such as riding in a helicopter or scuba diving. Those activities are frequently asked for on private insurance forms, and would make obtaining private life insurance prohibitively expensive, Mooney said.

Triebel, 39, was a flight paramedic on medevac helicopters. At the time of his death, he supervised the Aviation Command Training Section. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. "My husband was very dedicated to his job and his community," said Susan Triebel, his widow. "He



The [Diveheart](#) Foundation was founded in Early 2001 and is a non-profit tax exempt 501 (C) (3) national organization chartered in the state of Illinois. The purpose of Diveheart is to provide and support educational SCUBA diving and snorkeling experience programs that are open to any child, adult, or veteran with a disability with the hope of providing both physical and psychological therapeutic value to that person.

It is the "CAN DO" spirit that Diveheart hopes to instill in all its participants by giving them the confidence and independence that allows them to face their own life challenges and overcome barriers that before might have seemed insurmountable.

Through SCUBA diving, the Diveheart Foundation supports and facilitates programs that teach children and adults with disabilities to fly. Thanks to the wonder of the water column, the oceans and lakes of the world become the forgiving weightless environment of outer space, giving perfect buoyancy to a child or adult who would otherwise struggle on land.

participated in lots of things outside of his work for his community."

Mooney played rugby occasionally with Triebel, and heard through his friends that Triebel's family was struggling financially after his death. The family of a state trooper is entitled to \$185,000 in death and funeral benefits if the trooper dies in the line of duty.

The law would retroactively give Triebel's family death benefits. His death was not considered in the line of duty under state law. "To do your job as a state trooper, you have to stay in shape," Mooney said. "So I think it should be considered part of your job to get in shape." Because it doesn't happen often, he does not think the benefits would cost the state much money.

Susan Triebel is attending school to get a full-time job, but she said the transition has been difficult because her husband was the primary wage-earner. She thanked Mooney and Frederick

Sen. David Brinkley, the bill's co-sponsor, as well as the community for their support.

As submitted, Mooney's bill calls for accidents incurred while exercising to be considered in the line of duty. He plans to submit an amendment, however, that would allow a committee to determine whether exercising could be considered in the line of duty on a case-by-case basis.



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Delegate Galen Clagett, a Frederick Democrat, serves on the House Appropriations Committee and oversees a subcommittee on public safety. He said that he would favor the bill with the amendment. "Obviously, we want to take care of the families, and we have regard and respect for what they do, but we also have to consider the impact of what that could be for everybody, in terms of dollars out of the state budget," Clagett said.

Mooney's other bill would not directly benefit the Triebel family, but it would help others like him who serve on medevac helicopters by increasing the amount of life insurance the state offers. Currently, the state offers

\$300,000 in life insurance and \$300,000 in accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Troopers have the option to buy coverage up to that amount. Mooney's bill would increase their option by \$200,000.

Mooney said that was because dangerous state jobs make private life insurance cost-prohibitive. "It's a little bit unfair there, to say because he's a trooper serving the state of Maryland, he has to pay more for his private life insurance," Mooney said.

Body found in river identified

http://news10now.com/content/all_news/133638/body-found-in-river-identified/Default.aspx

02/13/2009 By: Web Staff

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. -- Binghamton Police now know the identity of the person found in the Chenango River Wednesday night. The body is that of Clary Atterberry, 32. It's the same man Binghamton Police say they tried to stop and question last November.

Atterberry fled police and jumped off a bridge and into the Chenango River. Police divers were not able to find anything at the time. His body was discovered by



a passerby who noticed the body in the water and phoned police.

Police vow 'we will find Antonietta'

http://www.thisiswiltshire.co.uk/news/4122014.Police_vow_we_will_find_Antonietta/

13th February 2009 [Exclusive By Charley Morgan »](#)

SNOW, ice and flooding have been hampering the ongoing search for the body of missing Trowbridge woman Antonietta Guarino. Mrs Guarino, who would have turned 62 last week, has been missing since January 7 and police believe she has been killed.

They have charged her former lodger Marc Riley, 24, and his 19-year-old lover David Carr-Burstow with her murder and the pair are due to appear before a judge in Bristol this morning.

The search for Mrs Guarino's body has centered on a stretch of the river Avon between Bradford on Avon Golf Club and the weir about a mile downstream. A dive team from Avon and Somerset Police was brought in and has been continually searching the stretch since January 29, supported for a time by a team from Sussex using sonar equipment. But the team were brought out of the water on Tuesday when the melting snow caused the water to rise rapidly

making it too dangerous.

Detective Superintendent Steve Fulcher, who is leading the investigation, said: "Every bit of bad weather has conspired against us recently. We have had the divers brought out but they will be going back in again as soon as the danger passes. "We are determined to find Antonietta and my priority is to try and bring closure to the family."

The dive team were just metres from reaching the weir before they were pulled from the water. The investigation has seen hydrologists, oceanographers and the National Search Adviser brought in to help determine if they are still searching in the right place.

As a precaution, Wiltshire Police has also circulated Mrs Guarino's DNA profile to all coroners offices downstream so she can be identified quickly should her body be found elsewhere. Det Supt Fulcher added: "We are confident that we are still looking in the right place. "The hydrologist has looked at all the national water flow data and it's quite clear that the body shouldn't have moved too far. "However the amount of water that has come into the river system recently might change that. "It does make it very, very difficult." A total of 11 crime scenes were sealed off during the investigation and there



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is still a police presence at Mrs Guarino's bungalow in Osborne Road, Trowbridge.

Det Supt Fulcher thanked the public for their help with the investigation, particularly in tracing the movements of her silver Toyota Yaris, which had been dumped at Shanley's scrapyards in Trowbridge. He said: "We had a really good response from the public, it has been superb and we found the car within hours."

The investigation into Mrs Guarino's death is projected to cost about £80,000, with the external search teams costing £33,000. This is compared to the £1m average cost of similar murder investigations elsewhere in the UK.

Woman kills children, self

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Mysore/Woman_kills_children_self/articleshow/4129249.cms

14 Feb 2009

MYSORE, India: In a tragic incident, a mother allegedly committed suicide along with two children by jumping into Nugu Dam in Heggadadevana Kote taluk, which came to light on Friday. Police suspect the incident happened two days back as bodies were found in a decomposed state.



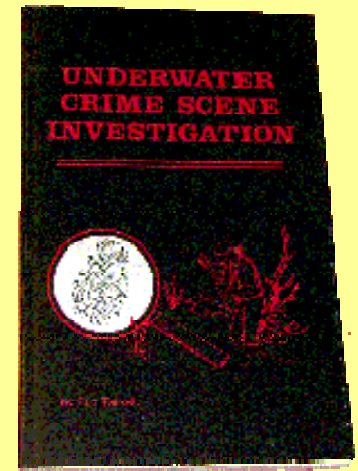
The deceased are identified as Rajeshwari (32), daughter Washita (13) and son Rohit (11), all residents of Gundlupet Taluk of Chamaraja Nagar district.

Heggadadevana Kote police said Rajeshwari tied a rope to her children and herself before jumping inside the water. On Friday morning, dam officials found the bodies floating and they informed the police about the incident. The bodies were fished out with the help of local divers.

Police said Rajeshwari was married to one Raju for 15 years and recently, Raju abandoned his wife because of an affair with another woman. Raju was harassing Rajeshwari frequently after he befriended the woman, according to complaint by her parents.

Police are on look out for Raju, who is reportedly absconding after the incident.

"Underwater Crime Scene Investigation" By Eric Tackett



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A case is registered against Raju at H D Kote police station. The bodies have been handed to Rajeshwari's mother Nagamallamma after autopsy.

Car-in-lake mystery

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentID=2009021429225>

2/15/2009 By Ibrahim Alawi and Muhammad Hadad

JEDDAH, Saudi

Arabia – JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia – Coast Guard divers using metal detectors searched all day in vain for a car full of people that is believed to have plunged into Arbaeen lake here around dawn Friday. They found only a gearbox that Coast Guard spokesman Col. Saleh Al-Shihri said



could possibly be from the sunken car. "There is a chance that the body of the car will be recovered," Al-Shihri said.

But mystery surrounds the incident as conflicting accounts emerged. Sources told Okaz that a lone driver in a Lexus was chasing a car with men and women inside around 6:30 A.M. from south Corniche when the two vehicles crashed and hit the concrete barrier on the flyover across the lake, sending the car full of people

plunging into the water. However, Hassan, the brother of the Lexus driver, Turki Assiri, a 23-year-old unemployed Saudi, denied that two cars were involved in the incident.

Unconscious

Hassan said Turki was unconscious when a Red Crescent ambulance rushed him to King Fahad Hospital after the accident. Hassan claimed he reached the hospital at mid-morning and found Turki conscious and able to recount what had happened.

Hassan said Turki told him that no other car was involved when a tire burst caused the Lexus to crash into the concrete barrier. The force of the impact sent the car's gear-box into the water, Hassan cited Turki as saying. Okaz sources contradicted Hassan's statement, saying that police arrested Turki from his home and brought him to the site at around 10:30 A.M. to explain how the crash had happened. The sources said that the Lexus was rendered immobile after the crash and that Turki immediately fled the scene on foot. Eyewitnesses said they saw huge bubbles coming out of the lake right after the crash.

Coast Guard boats and divers suspended the search operations at 11:00 P.M after a 16-hour search. Officials said the search will continue Saturday morning. "We are not sure yet if a car really plunged into the lake," said First Lt. Nawaf Al-Bouq, deputy spokesman of the Jeddah Police Department, "but one driver involved in the crash was arrested and is being investigated." Authorities believe there were women in the car that is believed to be

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Ern Campbell, MD
(scubadoc)

resting 10 meters deep in the murky silt of the lake. "We do not know as yet how many passengers were inside the car," said Muhammad Ba-Jubair, director of the Emergency Department at the Jeddah Health Department.

A Coast Guard source who asked not to be identified told Okaz that the car could have fallen into a deep trench in the lake, which is too dangerous for divers to reach. The flyover was closed for a few hours after the crash. The bridge has witnessed a few similar incidents in the last two years.

The 290,000 sq. meters Arbaeen Lake originally extended from the Red Sea. In the 1960s, it was clean and good for fishing and swimming. Today, it holds some 1,700,000 cubic meters of sewage water and barely contains any form of marine life. Ten years ago, a huge alligator was spotted in the lake, creating panic for the whole city before

it was found and killed several months later. People in the area believe there are many alligators in the lake. It was called the Arbaeen (or the Forty) because Jeddah women in the past used to

purify themselves in it after 40 days of childbirth.

The government has allocated SR44 million to clean up the scenic lake in the heart of Jeddah. – With additional reporting by Hassan Al-Harithy

Eurocopter Golden-hour Award Chicago Rescue saves baby from chilly water

<http://www.ainonline.com/news/single-news-page/article/eurocopter-golden-hour-award/>
February 22, 2009 By Mark Huber [Rotorcraft](#)

Last April 18 was a warm and blustery day in Chicago. Winds were blowing out of the west at better than 20 knots and the air temperature was headed for the low 70s. Shortly after 2 p.m., Stanko Bojanovic, 65, a Serbian immigrant who spoke little English, decided to take his two-year-old grandson, Lazar Ognjenovic, for a walk in Belmont Harbor on Lake Michigan. He pushed the boy in a stroller, along the pedestrian path atop the seawall. But then Bojanovic accidentally let the stroller go just as a gust of wind came up. It propelled the stroller—and Lazar—off the wall and into 14 feet of 42-degree-Fahrenheit water. Bojanovic dove in after Lazar, but could not rescue the boy. The harbor master pulled Bojanovic out of the lake. The shaken grandfather could only point back to the water and say, "boy, two." Witnesses called 911.

Fire Department One, a 2007 Bell 412EP, had just finished refueling at Midway Airport when it got the call. Pilots lieutenant Kenneth Straman

[DAN Announces ANOTHER New Member Benefit](#)
When Divers Alert Network® (DAN®) first published Alert Diver as a simple newsletter, no one could have predicted that it would become one of the dive industry's cornerstone publications. But it did, and now Alert Diver goes beyond the pages with DAN's newest member benefit, [AlertDiver.com](#).

and firefighter/EMT Anthony Lisanti were up front, while rescue divers/EMTs Brian Otto and William Davis rode in back. Straman juggled the frequencies and Lisanti did the flying. The crew got an expedited departure out of Midway and climbed to 400 feet agl, making a ground speed of close to 150 mph with the brisk tail wind. They were on scene in less than four minutes and pulled into a hover. Otto and Davis jumped into the lake.

They were quickly joined by three other fire department divers, two from Dive Truck 687, whose crew had been practicing submerged vehicle rescues at a nearby fire department training pool, and another from a rescue squad. After an estimated three minutes, the divers located little Lazar, about 12 feet away from the seawall in murky water on the lake bottom. They brought him up, still strapped in his stroller, but breathing. The boy had been under water almost 20 minutes and at the hospital he initially showed no evidence of brain activity. However, after weeks of hospitalization and several months of rehabilitative therapy, Lazar Ognjenovic, now three, shows no ill effects from his ordeal and has no memory of it.

Last month, members of the rescue team and their supervisors talked about the events of that afternoon and how the Air Sea Rescue unit's structure, training, equipment and personnel made that mission, and the nearly 500 other missions its flies annually, possible.

The unit has been flying continuously since 1965, initially with Bell 47s, then 206s, surplus UH-1Bs and Hs, and finally the 412s. It flies VFR-only operations with minimums

established by the unit's 11 pilots and governed by the mission. Generally that means ceiling and visibility of 500 and two at night and 500 and one during the day, but there is some flexibility. The fire department generally dispatches ground units and, when possible, department boats, as part of a coordinated, multi-level response to water-related calls. Most missions on Lake Michigan are conducted within three miles of shore but, due to mutual-aid pacts with other agencies and jurisdictions, they can extend up to 26 miles over water.

The pilots are recruited from the ranks of the fire department and require a minimum aviation background, according to Deputy Chief Harry Vergis, who joined the department more than 30 years ago as a paramedic and now heads the unit. Minimum requirements usually include a commercial helicopter certificate; five of the unit's 11 pilots hold CFI-H certificates while the others are all commercial pilots. Some have flown helicopters in the Army or Navy and some have transitioned from fixed-wing, multi-engine experience.

The pilots are sent to Bell for initial training and FlightSafety International for recurrent instruction. Civilian mechanic Mike Maihlan is also sent to annual schools either at Bell or Pratt & Whitney Canada. "The benefit of those schools cannot be ignored," said Vergis. "We understand they are expensive, but we are operating multimillion-dollar aircraft now." In addition to flying rescue missions, the unit's 412s fly in support of law enforcement. Both were flying near Grant Park on election night 2008, during President Obama's victory speech there.

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

RIGOR MORTIS

- Generally starts in the first 4 hours
- Maximum develops within 12 hours
- Disappears in 36-48 hours, 9-12 in hot climates
- Intensity depends on muscle mass

LIVOR MORTIS

- Generally starts in 20-30 minutes
- Becomes fixed after 10-12 hours
- Visible after .05 to 4 hours, well developed over next 4 hours, maximum at 8-12 hours.

ALGOR MORTIS

- Clothed body will cool in air at about 1.5 degrees C/h (internal temp) for first 6 hours then 1 degree C for the next 12 hours.

GENERAL TIMELINE

- **30 minutes** ... lividity (light skinned). Rigor may be starting.
- **3 hours** ... Lividity is usually obvious.
- **5 hours** ... Rigor is usually obvious.
- **10 hours** ... The body feels cold.
- **12-18 hours** ... Rigor is usually at or near maximum.
- **24 hours** ... Rigor is starting to lyse; later if it is hot out.

- **2 days** ... Green discoloration (iron sulfide) on the flanks.
- **2-3 days** ... Green discoloration on the abdomen.
- **3-4- days** ... Marbling (red discoloration of surface veins).
- **5-6 days** ... Epidermis separates from dermis.
- **2 weeks** ... Bloated, lots of gas in tissues.
- **3 weeks** ... Gas bursting organs, eyes bulge, tissues soft.
- **4 weeks** ... Semi-liquid

Temperature	Stiffness	Time of Death
Warm	Not stiff	< 3 hours
Warm	Stiff	Between 3 & 8 hours
Cold	Stiff	Between 8 & 36 hours
Cold	Not stiff	> 36 hours

The Forensic Teacher - Fall 2008 <http://theforensicteacher.com>

CADAVERIC SPASM (synonyms: instantaneous rigor, instantaneous rigidity, cataleptic rigidity) is a form of muscular stiffening which occurs at the moment of death and which persists into the period of rigor mortis. Its cause is unknown but it is usually associated with violent deaths in circumstances of intense emotion. It has medico-legal importance because it records the last act of life. Cadaveric spasm may affect all the muscles of the

body but it most commonly involves groups of muscles only, such as the muscles of the forearms and hands. Should an object be held in the hand, then cadaveric spasm should only be diagnosed if the object is firmly held and considerable force is required to break the grip. Cadaveric spasm involving all the muscles of the body is exceedingly rare and most often described in battle situations. (Ref. 6 at p. 85, and Ref. 10 at p. 19). Cadaveric spasm is seen in a small proportion of suicidal deaths from firearms, incised wounds, and stab wounds, when the weapon is firmly grasped in the hand at the moment of death. In such circumstances the gripping of the weapon creates a presumption of self-infliction of the injuries. This state cannot be reproduced after death by placing a weapon in the hands. It is also seen in cases of drowning when grass, weeds, or other materials are clutched by the deceased. In this circumstance, it provides proof of life at the time of entry into the water. Similarly, in mountain fatalities, branches of shrubs or trees may be seized. In some homicides, hair or clothing of the assailant may be found in the hands of the deceased. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/forensicmedicine/llb/timedead.htm>

Hypothermia Causes

http://www.emedicinehealth.com/hypothermia/page2_em.htm

Normal body temperature is the reflection of a delicate balance between heat production and heat loss. Many of the chemical reactions necessary for human survival can occur only in specific temperature ranges. The human brain has a number of ways to maintain vital temperature. When these mechanisms are overwhelmed,

heat loss happens faster than heat production resulting in hypothermia.

Sometimes the body's temperature control can be altered by disease. In this case, core body temperature can decrease in almost any environment. This condition is called secondary hypothermia.

The body loses heat in several ways.

- 55-65% is lost to the environment via radiation.
- Conduction only accounts for 2-3% in dry conditions, but this figure can increase to 50% if the victim is immersed in cold water.
- Convection accounts for 10%, while 2-9% is lost to heating inspired air.
- 20-27% is lost as a result of evaporation from the skin and lungs.
- Children cool quicker than adults because they have more surface area compared to body mass.

The body also has a variety of methods to increase heat production. But at a certain low level, the body cannot continue heat production, and core body temperature drops quickly. From 98.6°F to 89.6°F, the body begins to shiver, blood vessels contract, and hormones generate heat.

Shivering can double heat generation. However, this can only last a few hours. Eventually fatigue sets in, and the body exhausts its fuel stores.

Blood vessels contract or narrow in your arms and legs, which allows warm blood to remain internal and somewhat protected from the cold temperatures to which the skin is subjected.

Hormones and other small proteins are released in order to speed up the basal metabolic rate, essentially eating stored fuels in the hopes of producing heat as a byproduct.

From 89.6°F to 75.2°F, shivering stops, and basic metabolism progressively slows down. At a body temperature lower than 75.2°F, almost every mechanism for heat conservation becomes inactive. Core body temperature continues to plummet. In primary hypothermia, the body is unable to generate heat fast enough to compensate for ongoing heat losses. This primarily is a disease of exposure.

In general, in cold, dry environments, hypothermia occurs over a period of hours. In cold water, core temperature can drop to dangerous levels in a matter of minutes.

The elderly, because of their impaired ability to produce and retain heat, may become hypothermic over a period of days while living in indoor, regulated conditions that other people would find comfortable.

The homeless, alcoholics, and mentally ill are prone to hypothermia because they are unable to find adequate

shelter or are unable to recognize when it is time to come in from the cold.

In secondary hypothermia, something goes wrong with the body's heat-balancing mechanisms. People with such diseases as stroke, spinal cord injury, low blood sugar, and a variety of skin disorders can become hypothermic in only mildly cool air.

Causes and Risk Factors of Hyperthermia

<http://www.healthscout.com/ency/68/271/main.html>

Regardless of extreme weather conditions, the healthy human body keeps a steady temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

In hot weather or during vigorous activity, the body perspires. As this perspiration evaporates from the skin, the body is cooled.

If challenged by long periods of intense heat, the body may lose its ability to respond efficiently. When this occurs, a person may experience [hyperthermia](#). In other words, hyperthermia occurs when body metabolic heat production or environmental heat load exceeds normal heat loss capacity or when there is impaired heat loss.

Health Factors That Increase Risk

The temperature does not have to hit 100 degrees for a person to be at risk. Both one's general health and/or lifestyle may increase a person's chance of suffering a heat-related illness.

Health factors which may increase risk include:

- poor circulation
- inefficient sweat glands, and changes in the skin caused by the normal aging process
- heart, lung and kidney diseases, as well as any illness that causes general weakness or fever high blood pressure or other conditions that require changes in diet. For example, people on salt-restricted diets may increase their risk of being unable to perspire, caused by medications including diuretics, sedatives and tranquilizers, and certain heart and blood pressure drugs.
- Other factors include being substantially overweight or underweight, and drinking alcoholic beverages.

Lifestyle factors that can increase risk are:

- unbearably hot living quarters
- lack of transportation - which prevents people from seeking respite from the heat in shopping malls, movie houses, and libraries
- overdressing - because they may not feel the heat, older people may not dress appropriately in hot weather
- visiting overcrowded places - trips should be scheduled during non-rush hour times
- not understanding weather conditions - older persons at risk should stay indoors on especially hot days.

Symptoms of Hyperthermia

The two most common forms of hyperthermia are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Of the two, heat stroke is especially dangerous and requires immediate medical attention.

Heat stress occurs when a strain is placed on the body as a result of hot weather.

Heat fatigue is a feeling of weakness brought on by high outdoor temperature. Symptoms include cool, moist skin and a weakened pulse. The person may feel faint.

Heat syncope is a sudden dizziness experienced after exercising in the heat. The skin appears pale and sweaty but is generally moist and cool. The pulse is weakened and the heart rate is usually rapid. Body temperature is normal.

Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms in the abdomen, arms or legs following strenuous activity. Heat cramps are caused by a lack of salt in the body.

Heat exhaustion is a warning that the body is getting too hot. The person may be thirsty, giddy, weak, uncoordinated, nauseated and sweating profusely. The body temperature is normal and the pulse is normal or raised. The skin is cold and clammy.

Heat stroke can be life-threatening and victims can die. A person with heat stroke usually has a body temperature above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Other symptoms include

confusion, combativeness, bizarre behavior, faintness, staggering, strong and rapid pulse, and possible delirium or coma. High body temperature is capable of producing irreversible brain damage.

Diagnosis of Hyperthermia

Diagnosis is based on the medical history (including symptoms) and physical exam.

Treatment of Hyperthermia

If the victim is exhibiting signs of heat stroke, emergency assistance should be sought immediately. Without medical attention, heat stroke can be deadly.

Heat exhaustion may be treated in several ways:

- get the victim out of the sun into a cool place, preferably one that is air conditioned
- offer fluids but avoid alcohol and caffeine - water and fruit juices are best
- encourage the individual to shower and bathe, or sponge off with cool water
- urge the person to lie down and rest, preferably in a cool place

Prevention of Hyperthermia

Prevention hyperthermia is relatively straightforward: Use common sense in avoiding excessive activity in situations in which heat is present. Adequate intake of fluids before, during and after exercise in any situation also is essential.

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>

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MISSION REPORT

Snowmobiler in the Fox River

Submitted by Chris Smith csmith@weebenterprises.com

Body of missing snowmobiler recovered

<http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2009/01/19/61621083/index.xml>

By SARAH SUTSCHEK January 19, 2009

ALGONQUIN – Next to “Jimmy loves Annie” and “Lauren + Mike,” the name “Gabe” was etched on a table in the Haeger’s Bend neighborhood clubhouse.

“You think about it, if you knew then what you knew now, that 15 years later he would be dead ...” said 26-year-old Ricky Thinnes, his voice trailing off as crews worked outside to recover his friend’s body from the Fox River.

A group of Gabe Jauregui’s friends gathered at the clubhouse Tuesday, about a day and a half after the Algonquin man went missing. Next to the 26-year-old’s name, they scratched Monday’s date into the table.

Jauregui had been out riding with a friend Sunday evening and was on his way back from a local tavern when the two parted ways about 7 p.m. to return to their homes. After

learning that Jauregui had not returned home, the friend called police about 2:45 p.m. Monday.

Resting on ice just across the street from the home where Jauregui

lived with his parents, the gloves and helmet that he had been wearing were found by search crews. His

snowmobile was found in the river. Crews combed the area until they no longer could see in the fading light, resuming the search about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

At 10:30 a.m., a diver was sent into the water after getting a hit through sonar, but it was only a large boulder. Still, Jauregui’s family was not discouraged, holding onto the hope that he still was alive. At one point, his aunt came to fire officials with the hope that boot prints she



Elgin diver William Nangle enters the water as crews search the Fox River near Algonquin Tuesday.



A rescue diver examines a helmet Monday during a search for a missing snowmobiler in the Fox River in Algonquin. Justin Edmonds – jedmonds@nwherald.com

said she saw at the bridge crossing the river on Route 62 could have been his.

But at 12:56 p.m., Jauregui's body was pulled from the frigid water, just minutes after his friends had been reminiscing after seeing "Gabe" etched onto the table and talking about how they had known him since they were "in diapers." They said that each one of them helped work on Jauregui's souped-up truck, a 1987 Chevrolet Silverado with a 9-inch lift known as "Big Red." "He was a really nice guy," Jason Martell said. "He was probably the strongest guy I knew, but nothing could fight this."

Lt. Julie Didier of the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District, said that the snowmobile and riding gear had been lent to Jauregui by his uncle. "It's my understanding that he had some experience [riding snowmobiles], but not a lot," she said.

Richard Riedel, an officer with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police, said it was not illegal to drive snowmobiles across ice, but drivers could not operate "in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner." "Extreme caution needs to be used because ice conditions are always changing," Riedel said. "The majority of the Chain [O' Lakes] is safe for use, and it's being done, but the river just isn't safe because of the current."

Jauregui's body was recovered less than a mile from where three Chicago teens drowned in November while on a school retreat.

Crews from Elgin, South Elgin, Huntley, Crystal Lake, McHenry Township, West Dundee and Elk Grove Village assisted Algonquin-Lake in the Hills.

Divers find snowmobiler's body in the Fox River

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=265742&src=7>
1/20/2009 [By Jameel Naqvi](#)

Divers on Tuesday recovered the body of 26-year-old Gabriel Jauregui from the Fox River; two days after his snowmobile apparently went through the ice near Algonquin as he was driving it home from a bar.

Jauregui's body was found about 25 feet from where his snowmobile entered the water, according to firefighters.

Recovery teams had to cut three holes into the ice before they were able to locate Jauregui's body with the help of sonar equipment.

Jauregui lived in the Haeger's Bend subdivision in unincorporated McHenry County near Algonquin. The



point where he entered the river is only a short walk from the house where he lived with his parents.

Authorities said it was not clear if Jauregui left the bar alone or with a friend. Firefighters have said a friend who was with

Jauregui Sunday called police when he wanted to go to Jauregui's home Monday afternoon and did not find him there.

After finding Jauregui's submerged snowmobile, floating helmet and gloves around 3 p.m. Monday, the mission changed from a rescue to a body recovery. When night fell, authorities suspended the search and returned to the scene at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

An uncle who asked to not be identified said before the discovery of his nephew's body that Jauregui's immediate family was not doing well. The family did not answer the phone.

Jauregui's friends described him as a hardworking, generous bricklayer who graduated from Jacobs High



Divers search the Fox River near the Haeger's Bend subdivision near Haeger's Bend Road and First Street on the edge of Algonquin and Fox River Grove.

School in 2000. Jauregui had two young children and was planning to get married soon, friends said.

An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday.

Snowmobile Plunges Through the Iced Over Fox River, Driver Missing.

Todd Rishling

Elk Grove Village Fire Department

Lake/McHenry County Dive Rescue Team

On January 18th, 2009 a snowmobile traveled south on the Fox River from the Cary, IL area. The intended destination was home for Gabe Jauregui; he never made it.

The following day at approx 1400 hours the Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District received a call for a possible water rescue/recovery. The missing person's friends and family had found his helmet floating in the river and his gloves frozen to the ice shelf. It appeared the victim lost just 40 ft from shore and across the street from his home.

An intensive search was started at the water's edge in the Hager's Bend subdivision in Algonquin, IL.



What followed was the organized effort of multiple agencies working for two days to provide closure for the family and friends of the victim.

Approximately 1400 hours on January 19th, 2009 the Algonquin-Lake in The Hills FPD, IL set out on the banks of the frozen Fox River. Finding a floating helmet in the small open water section of the middle river and a pair of gloves frozen to the ice shelf they intensified the search. Surface ice rescue personal suited up and scoured the area.

A surface rescuer was able to locate the snowmobile with help from a probing stick. The decision was made to call in the dive team.

ALITH FPD does not have a dive team. Over the past few years they have developed an outstanding swift water rescue team and surface ice rescue team. They have become equip with all the tools for success in these areas.



But when it comes to subsurface rescue/recovery they rely on the neighboring fire departments and the MABAS system (mutual aid box alarm system). A dive box was activated and the responding agency quickly went to work. Departments from MABAS division 2,5, and 1 all responded (this in part due to the geographical location and bordering areas of the fire

district) Algonquin operates in both MABAS 2 and 5 (Kane Co and McHenry Co) with the primary being MABAS 2. The ICS was established, branching out using the NIMS format. Soon thereafter dive operations were underway.



The initial divers located the snowmobile near the estimated submersion point in 8' of water, but no victim. With nightfall approaching, the decision to end the efforts and restart the following morning was made.

Considering the challenges of diving under ice in a river with a current, ALITH FPD decided to look for

options and made contact with specific sonar capable agencies that night. Once located, a decision to bring in sonar technology, a core team of divers and extra support crews was made.



Lt Tony Bialek of the Elgin Fire Dept briefs team members pre-dive. Formulated plans were implemented, as the divers would be directed to the targets via the sonar unit and hardwire communications

The next morning an early recon was completed and the mission resumed. A [Kongsberg](#) Sector Scan Sonar unit was brought in from the Elk Grove Village Fire Department (MABAS DIV 1). We set up operations in the back yard of a residence near the submersion point. The IC post was set in the local subdivision community building (3 buildings down from the submersion point) with LITH FD Chief Guetschow as the IC.



Elgin diver William Nangle prepares to enter the water.

Elgin FD dive team leader Lt. Tony Bialek (MABAS 2), was in charge of dive ops and sonar

ops/scene management was handled by our team (EGVFD-MABAS 1).

Captain Tim Littlefield (A-LITH) was the Scene Safety Officer and Lt. Randy Friese, representing West Dundee FD (MABAS 2), would be designated as Dive Ops Safety. A cooperative effort in a "unified command" structure was established with participating FD's, local PD, Coroners office, and the Illinois Conservation Police. Lt. Juile Didier ALITH FD handled PIO with frequent briefings by dive/sonar. Captain John Kneble with the ALITH FD was the liaison to the family.



Sonar activities immediately started with significant targets identified on our first scan. A probable target was identified after we ruled out many others utilizing the sonar's software abilities and ascertaining the relative location and size of the target.

Around 0900 divers started to arrive along with surface support crews. A





Team members work to move the sonar unit down river approx 50ft from the LSP to look for new targets. The Kongsberg Sonar Unit was suspended over the ice edge and secured with an ice screw

Zumero inflatable tent was inflated along with a heating system and was used as the base of ops for our sonar techs as well as the diver dressing area.

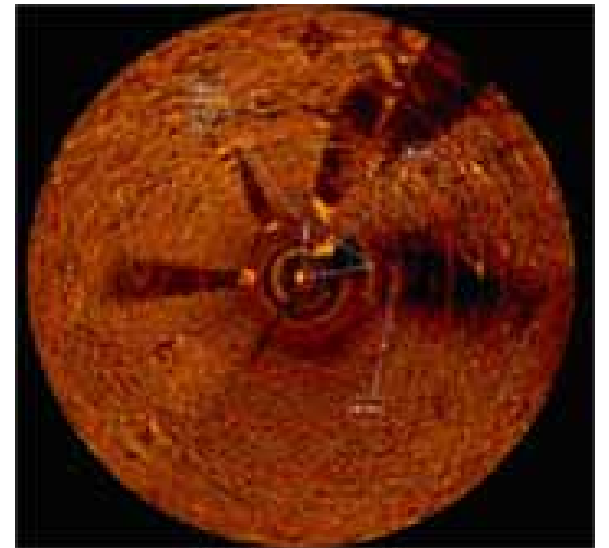
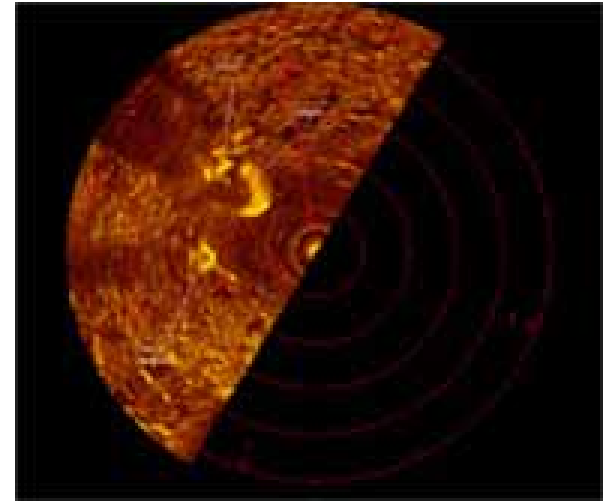
A briefing was completed and a plan formulated for the dive operation. An Elgin FD diver (MABAS 2) was deployed to investigate the target and was guided to it via hardwire comms under the direction of the sonar techs; it ended up being a large boulder (4' boulder).

The current in that area of the river had increased since the prior day causing additional safety issues and

challenges for all involved. The decision was made to abort the dive mission for the day and the divers were told to stand down. ALITH FD and many members of the local community established rehab.

Various retailers such as local pizza restaurants, Jimmy John's sandwiches, and other local residences donated food/drinks to the members involved.

We continued to image with sonar approx



50' down river. Three probable targets were identified and marked.. Due to the increase in current we decided to probe the targets with poles. Access was made via an auger hole with help from ALITH FD surface ice techs.

Target one was determined to be another large rock; target two was determined to be a 55-gallon drum (we didn't probe the drum; we were able to get a very clear image on sonar to determine this). Target three was just below the ice shelf. Our sonar marking buoy/target was lowered near this target but the definition of this target and its' measurements were inconclusive.

At this point in time we were also working on locating additional resources. An underwater drop camera was being requested and the possibility of an ROV with grab arm was being considered. Unfortunately, the ROV was hours away.



We repositioned the sonar head and the surface ice techs probed the target with poles. The ice rescue techs stated they felt a soft pliable target when probing. An effort was made to lift the target with pike poles, but was unsuccessful. The target was dropped and moved about 10' south of the original location. In the new position and location sonar images now showed the definition of a body.

Having a definite target a new dive operation was started and a hole was cut in the ice directly over the target. The diver dropped in right on top of the target, which proved to be the victim.

Recovery was made at 12:56 hours and the incident concluded. Rehab and clean up was completed and all

personnel were returned by 1400 hours.

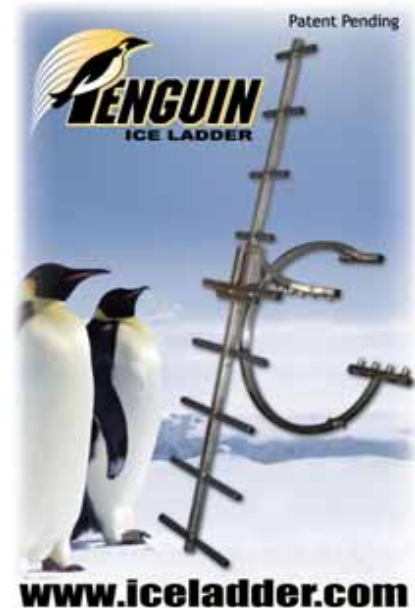
Lessons Learned

The use of the sonar allowed an area of approx 200'x200' to be cleared of targets using only two divers. The use of a surface drop camera would have proven effective to confirm targets (we had rather good visibility which is rare in this area). Had we not had the ability to use sonar to clear the area, the current would have put more divers in a very high-risk, overhead ice environment.

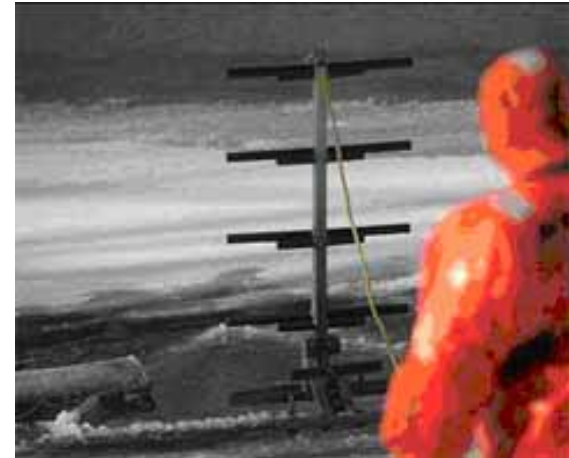
The victim was recovered more than 100ft south of the initial submersion point and the current was progressively moving him down river. The use of sector scan sonar

allowed the teams to determine likely targets eventually locating the victim without having to commit multiple divers or teams to a large dive operation.

Operations went flawless with many teams operating as one; many of the individuals involved had not worked together before in this capacity. This is a proven testament that standardization, planning, and cooperative teamwork



are successful. One vital piece of equipment as scene in many of the pictures is the [Penguin Ice Ladder](#). This tool proved itself in this mission and allowed diver entry and exit with little effort.



Respectfully submitted,

FF/PM Todd Rishling
Elk Grove Village Fire Department
Lake/McHenry County Dive Rescue Team
Water Rescue Team Leader, PSSI

trishling@elkgrove.org wtresq@comcast.net

Submit your own Mission Report! A Mission Report can be a current event or a memorable incident. Share your experiences with others. Email your Mission Report to: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

EVENTS

Crime Scenes & Investigations

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Tampa, FL www.ndaa.org



<http://www.wasar2009.com/>

LEWIS COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

2009 Washington State Search & Rescue Conference

Lewis County SAR Conference

<http://www.wasar2009.com/>

Pre-Conference: MAY 11th - 14th

Date: MAY 15th - 17th

Location:

Dragon Sphere Park Skinner Road - Randle

Lat: 46.29.48 Long: 122.02.34



2009 National Search and Rescue Conference

<http://www.nasar.org/>

Dates: 5/28/09 - 5/30/09

Location: Little Rock, AR



Click Here for More Information

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

22nd Annual Forensic Anthropology Course

Date: From: 2009-06-01 To: 2009-06-05

Location: National Transportation Safety Board (Training Center) / Ashburn, Virginia "C USA

Organization: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology & American Registry of Pathology

Field: Forensic Anthropology URL:

<http://www.askafip.org>

SARCon 09

Oct. 15-18, 2009

Northwest SARCon is a search and rescue conference developed for emergency responders and their supervisors, including: sheriff's deputies, SAR team members, SAR volunteers, police officers from state and municipal agencies, firefighters, military and national guard personnel and Emergency Medical Services crews. At the conclusion of the conference, participants will have received hands-on training and participated in discussions on topics related directly to the conduct of search and rescue missions. <http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/sarcon/>



PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education

PSDM-CE-59 Ice Rescue

- 1) Scuba divers who get cold may run out of air faster as shivering increases demand for air.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2) The positions, _____&_____ are designed to reduce body heat loss in water
 - a. Swim, Tread
 - b. Wave, Yell
 - c. Low, High
 - d. Help, Huddle
- 3) Ice cold water can cause severe hypothermia in _____ minutes or less:
 - a. 15
 - b. 20
 - c. 30
 - d. 40
 - e. 50
- 4) Hypothermia is defined as a body core temp less than _____
 - a. 45 C
 - b. 50 C
 - c. 35 C
 - d. 20 C
- 5) The body loses heat in water _____ faster than in air.:
 - a. 25 %
 - b. 30 %
 - c. 45 %
 - d. 50 %
- 6) IV administration should be a _____ fluid
 - a. Cold
 - b. Tepid
 - c. Alternate warm, cold
 - d. Warm
- 7) Hypothermia victims should be kept _____ as long as possible.
 - a. Head high feet low
 - b. Feet high head low
 - c. Horizontal
 - d. In a position that make the victim comfortable.
- 8) Hyperthermia is:
 - a. Heat exhaustion followed by heat loss
 - b. Heat stroke followed by heat loss
 - c. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke
 - d. Too rapid rewarming from a cold water experience
- 9) Field treatment for hypothermia includes rapid rewarming of patient
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 10) Prevention of hyperthermia starts with_____:
 - a. Ice packs under the arm pits

- b. Lowering the ambient temperature
 - c. Fluid intake
 - d. Shallow breathing
- 11) Heat stroke usually results in a body core temperature of _____.
- a. 104 f or higher
 - b. 106 F or higher
 - c. Less than 90 F
 - d. Less than 98 F
- 12) Conductions only accounts for _____ in dry conditions, but this figure can increase to _____ if the victim is immersed in cold water.
- a. 4-5%, 60%
 - b. 10-12%, 50%
 - c. 1-2%, 50%
 - d. 2-3%, 50%

TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

The most important phase of treatment is the prevention of post-rescue collapse during the first 30 minutes following rescue, and during transportation to a medical facility. Review and evaluate your team protocols for dealing with cold weather rescue. Discuss HOW and WHY your knowledge on this matter could affect the medical treatment of a recovered victim.

- 1) Discuss, create or evaluate the protocols your

team has for both HYPERTHERMIA and HYPOTHERMIA.

- 3) Discuss the different classifications of Mortis and relate them to actual calls. In your examples, how could your team apply the classifications to a water related investigation?
- 2) Discuss what relationships hypo and hyperthermia could have to rigor or livor mortis?

These training agencies have recognized PSDiver Monthly as a valued addition to their programs and Continuing Education requirements. We welcome all agencies to participate, For details, email PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

	<p><u>ERDI</u> Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.</p>
<p>The <u>Public Safety Diving Association</u> (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>	