

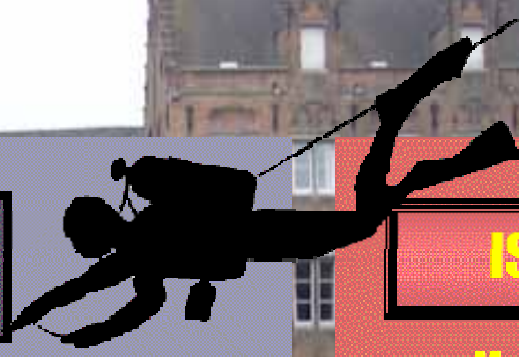
**PSDiver Monthly**

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 60

**ISSUE 60**

**March 2009**



**National  
PSD  
Standards  
REVISITED**

**Forensic Diver  
Belgium Survey**

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



## Greetings,

Some months I wonder if the amount of time I spend working on PSDiver Monthly and the PSDiver.com web site are worth it. Then about the time I really get frustrated at the long hours, the pain in the wrist and shoulder, I usually find a glimmer of hope that sustains me.

Earlier this month I was asked for assistance with a survey on Forensic Diving. Part of what I teach and write about can be considered Forensic Diving so I was immediately interested. As I read the letter, I became puzzled at the phrasing and terminology and I struggled a bit to relate it to what we do. There were many familiar elements but the text seemed a bit "off".

By the time I had finished, I realized that the English I was reading was not written by someone whose first language was English. The concepts presented in the survey were not familiar because they originated in Belgium – not the USA.

How arrogant of me – of us on occasion – to forget that we are part of a world community of public servants. Not everyone knows what a PSD is or has heard of PSDiver,

Public Safety Diving or even any of the ABC agencies we so proudly tout and argue about.

A couple of years ago I was invited to assist an Underwater Forensics Class that Dr. Ron Becker was teaching in Hawaii. As a firefighter, it is sometimes hard for me to change the terminology I use but I recognize that there are some differences in perception when we use different terminology to describe what we do.

The Belgium survey reminded me of that. They appear to be doing the same basic job, face the same issues and problems and deal with the same challenges but have managed to develop a program without our help. How about that...

That is kind of like us wanting a national standard for Public Safety Diving and being constantly delayed and hindered. For years I have been predicting an outcome that created a national standard that we would not like unless we participated. I have predicted that individual states would develop state standards and that we might be surprised by them.

Last week a training group contacted me for information and to exchange some ideas. During the conversation

they mentioned the new OSHA Public Safety Diving Standards. Of course I immediately went on alert and made that THE topic of conversation. While talking I hurriedly searched the Internet for information. I finally find the document they described to me. It does indeed exist ... in the State of Maine. Add another state to the growing list. How long will it be before we have a national standard?

I hear rumors of another big recreational training agency coming into the PSD training world. If they do, another of my predictions will come true.

The PSD related training agencies and their principles know my opinions and in most cases agree with me but there has been some angry disagreement by one or two who oppose my proposals of a national standard. I think it is time to worry about the many and revisit the arguments and proposals.

I think it is time to revisit the project I started over a year ago to create a National PSD Standards draft. The last time I started I received a few calls and emails asking me to back off because "something was in the works and I might foul it up". Nothing happened. If there was something to foul up – I never heard about it or saw anything develop.

The project I have in mind is big. I could do it myself if all I had to do was work on that for months on end but like you, I have a career, a business to run and a family etc. We are all limited in one way or another. If enough of you

are willing to volunteer some time, it might be possible to actually create a viable standard but it should be a group that does this, not just one or two individuals.

I am reactivating the private discussion group I created in February 2008. If you want to participate, this is what you do:

Go to <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDiver-StandardsCommittee/?yguid=168374333> and click JOIN.

When the text box appears, you will have to write a brief resume and summary about yourself and why you want to join the group. If you are unable or unwilling to do this, there is no way we can expect you will share any of the work and you will not be allowed to join. This will be a work group – not a discussion group. It is my goal to have a draft created by the end of this year.

If and when we get a standard created, it will be posted as a draft for all to see, review and comment on. After that it WILL be presented to OSHA as a requested national standard.

Below you will find the State of Maine PSD Standards as well as the link to their home page. After that you will find the Belgium Forensic Diver survey information. I encourage you to read both and participate in the survey.

Stay Safe,  
Mark Phillips  
Editor / Publisher  
PSDiver Monthly [www.PSDiver.com](http://www.PSDiver.com)

# Compliance Directive

**Directive Number: 23-09**

**Effective Date: January, 2009**

**Subject: Public Sector Dive Team Operations**

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/12/179/179c005.doc>

## Background:

This compliance directive contains Code of Maine Rules, Chapter 5, Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Public Sector Diving. The purpose of this Chapter is to establish standards and procedures to protect public safety divers from the hazards of diving. All public sector dive teams must at a minimum have a program that meets the following guidelines

### I. Definitions

**Public Safety Diver:** Any individual who engages in compressed gas diving activities under the direction of a public employer subject to rules adopted under Title 26 MRSA [§ 565](#) and [§ 2107](#).

**Public Safety Dive:** Compressed gas diving performed in the interest of public safety, which does not meet the definitions for commercial, scientific, or other diving activities as described in 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T as adopted July 23, 2007 by the U. S. Department of Labor.

**Public Safety Dive Team:** Personnel trained in public safety dive operations, including public safety divers and support persons.

### II. Dive Manual

Each agency conducting public safety diving shall develop and maintain a written dive operations manual that contains policies and procedures to protect divers.

Each dive manual shall be reviewed annually.

Each dive manual shall contain, at a minimum, the following sections:

1. Scope Dive Operations
2. Chain of Command Standard
3. Operating Procedures (SOP) for Dive Operations
4. Equipment maintenance/inspection
5. Medical Evaluation and Clearance
6. Training
7. Emergency Action Plan
8. Recordkeeping

### III. Scope

Each agency shall establish a written mission and limit of its public safety dive operations.

### IV. Dive Operations Chain of Command

Each agency shall establish a written chain of command with a clear chain of responsibility and duties within a dive program including but not limited to: divers, supervisors and administration.

## V. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Dive Operations

Each agency shall establish written standard operating procedures for dive operations. Procedures shall be established based on dive type, dive parameters and recognized dive safety practices. A process of hazard assessment, which will include personal protective equipment, shall be included as part of standard operating procedures.

## VI. Equipment Maintenance/Inspection

Each agency shall ensure and document that all dive-related equipment is inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Each agency shall keep a written inventory of dive-related equipment. All dive-related equipment shall be inspected for wear or damage prior to each use.

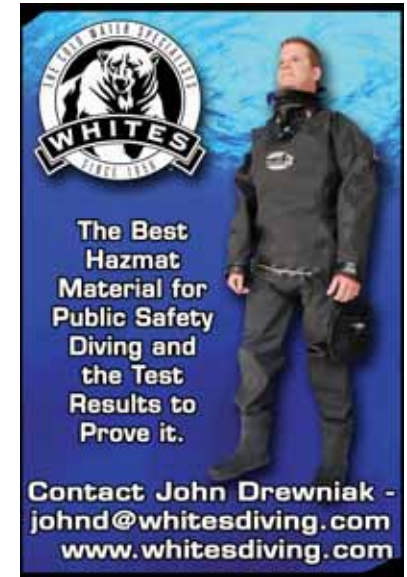
## VII. Medical Evaluation and Clearance

Every public safety diver must receive a written medical clearance for diving by a physician or other licensed health care provider or physician (PLHCP) at least every eighteen (18) months. Following any major injury or illness requiring medical attention beyond first aid, additional written medical clearance by the PLHCP shall be obtained before resuming diver duties.

## VIII Training

1. Each public safety diver shall possess, at a minimum, a nationally recognized diver certification.
2. Each agency shall ensure dive team members are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), First Aid, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and the proper administration of oxygen, if licensed to do so.
3. Dive team members shall be trained or certified proficient for the requirements of various dive operations for which they are assigned.
4. Training shall be commensurate with duties and type of dive operations, including, but not limited to:
  1. Use of tools and equipment
  2. Techniques of diving
  3. Emergency procedures
  4. Hyperbaric conditions
  5. Recordkeeping and log books
  6. Watercraft operation

## VIII. Emergency Action Plan



Each Agency shall develop a written emergency action plan. The emergency action plan shall include, but is not limited to, emergency procedures for equipment failure, adverse conditions, and medical illness or injury. This plan shall be integrated into the Dive Manual and any training provided to dive teams.

## IX. Recordkeeping

Each agency shall maintain written records of all operational and training dive activities. Records kept shall include:

1. Medical clearance for each diver.
2. Training records.
3. Equipment inspection/maintenance records.
4. Dive records. Dive records shall include, but not limited, to the following:
  1. Type of Dive
  2. Date
  3. Name of Dive Supervisor
  4. Name and Role of Dive Members
  5. Location
  6. Surface and Subsurface Environmental Conditions
  7. Dive Profile
  8. Unusual Incidents

Each agency shall retain all written records for active members. Records connected to non-active member shall be retained a minimum of five (5) years beyond the individuals last dive-related activity.

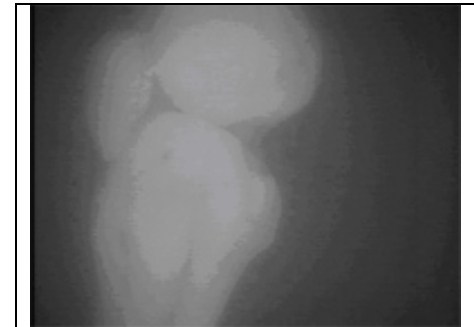
# Special to PSDiver Monthly

## Forensic Diving

By Jonas Donvil

Forensic diving is a fairly new method in the forensic science world. It may be relatively well known in America; however, this isn't the case in Europe. Teams exist but are not consequently put into play due to them being fairly young and unknown in their own departments.

In Belgium, the Disaster Victim Identification Team (DVI) of the federal police always considered research and development (R&D) concerning body recovery and identification as one of their core businesses. Many of the techniques that were developed by this department are now also called upon by crime scene investigators, making this team much more than just a disaster response team. Due



**The equipment used is a fixed focus camera; it's controlled from outside the water. The person outside tells the diver, who obviously can't see a thing, to move closer or further away in order to get a sharp picture. The picture you see is a still from video-footage, it's a knee from a fake-skeleton**

to the large presence of waterways in Belgium the idea of forensic diving to recover bodies and evidence in the water was born. The DVI team therefore engaged a diver who was interested in developing this quite unknown discipline in Belgium.

Submerged in a R&D culture, Ronny Olemans started training towards becoming a full-blown forensic diver. He took classes on rescue diving and underwater archeology, learned himself the techniques of forensic diving and plans to take a forensic diving course in America later this year. Together with Steve Delporte, the forensic science expert of DVI, he is working on a way to predict when and where submerged bodies reemerge, or the other way around, were reemerged bodies most likely submerged into the water. They called this technique aqua targeting and it shows promising results. They also founded the OFSAR or the Organization for Fire, Sub-aquatic and Archaeological Research. Their goal is to be able to make usable video footage in extreme conditions like infernos or zero-visibility underwater



**Recovery of a car that was too far gone to be lifted by crane the usual way. It was packaged underwater and then lifted.**



**Recovery of a body that was put in an underwater body bag.**

surroundings. Note that the example photograph was taken from a 30cm distance in zero-visibility water.

As Belgium is a very small country, it takes only 3 hours to drive from one side to the other, so it is possible to service the whole nation with one federal team. Momentarily this team consists of only one diver but for various practical and safety reasons, a diving partner was necessary. The fire department turned out to be the natural choice for this partnership. Most fire departments have a rescue diving team, which can be called upon at any time and with the same basic training as the DVI-forensic diver. At this moment forensic diving operations are led by the forensic diver who briefs the rescue divers, but in the future a forensic diving training program for rescue divers should be feasible.

As said before R&D is very important to the DVI-department but nevertheless the wheel should not be reinvented. In some countries forensic diving is far more developed or different techniques are being used. The DVI-team is aware that

international exchange and cooperation are key factors in the development of 'good' forensic diving. This is why the DVI gave me the assignment to collect information on forensic dive teams and their partners worldwide.

I created a survey which collects information such as contact info, techniques used, equipment, etc. It takes about 15 minutes to complete so I would greatly appreciate it if teams that are involved in forensic diving on a regular basis would take the time to complete it. You can download it from

<http://student.kuleuven.be/~s0159494/survey.pdf>

Instructions are included in the file.

PSDiver Monthly will publish results of the survey once it is completed.



**Jonas Donvil** is a student in criminology at the KUL or the [University of Leuven](http://www.kuleuven.be) and an intern at DVI Belgium. He can be reached via email at [jonas.donvil@student.kuleuven.be](mailto:jonas.donvil@student.kuleuven.be)

For more information on aqua targeting, you can contact Ronny Olemans or Steve Delporte of the DVI ([dvibelgium@skynet.be](mailto:dvibelgium@skynet.be)). For more information on vzw OFSAR go to [www.ofsar.be](http://www.ofsar.be).

## NEWS

### Tragedy, heroism converged on Lake Winnebago

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20090223/FON0101/902230336/1985>

Gannett Wisconsin Media • February 23, 2009

Two cracks had opened in the 3-foot-thick ice on Wisconsin's largest inland lake a few days before the annual lake sturgeon-spearing season was to begin. Temperatures that climbed to 53 degrees on Feb. 11 — well above the norm of 28 — combined with winds to open jagged gaps on the south end of Lake Winnebago and on the eastern shore near Stockbridge.

But it would be a third crack, up to 50 feet wide, a half-mile off the eastern shore and a mile south of the small community of Quinney, that would figure into a story of tragedy and heroism on Valentine's Day that would define the 2009 spearing season.





Sturgeon spearing, an annual rite of winter in eastern Wisconsin and Black Lake in Lower Michigan, began that Saturday morning. Local fishing clubs had placed metal bridges over major cracks in the ice. Otherwise, the cracks were impassable, though hard to see; as the unseasonably warm temperatures returned to normal, a thin new layer of ice formed on the open water, and then on the day before the season's opening, snowfall covered the new ice.

Opening day was coming to an end when Dan Kleinhans came out to Lake Winnebago with his daughter and her friend to play on the ice and visit friends and relatives who were waiting to spear a fish.

Just before 11 a.m., Kleinhans walked over to a shanty to chat with his brother-in-law Richard Schneider. Kleinhans' 9-year-old daughter, Savannah, and her friend Tiffany J. Dombrowski, 7, were a few feet away with her aunt and Schneider's wife, Barb.

### ***Rescue timeline***

Stockbridge firefighters have started to review tapes of the incident to determine an exact time frame for events, but the times recorded by the Calumet County 911 Center shows it was 27 minutes from the time of the first call until the girls were on the ice and resuscitation efforts had started.

- **11:39 a.m.:** A dispatcher answered as call at the Calumet County 911 Center and paged the Stockbridge Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance and sheriff's department deputies.
- **11:41:** ThedaStar dispatched
- **12:01 p.m.:** ThedaStar landed on the east shore of the lake at Quinney
- **12:06:** Reports said patients removed, cpr started
- **12:10:** Patients and paramedics on board vehicle and headed to shore
- **12:28:** Quinney Fishing Club truck hooked on pickup to secure it
- **13:39:** First responders done

As far as the eye could see, thousands of spearers and shanties were set up on the ice. The day was sunny, the temperature 33 degrees. There was a party atmosphere on the lake.

Kleinhans, Savannah and Tiffany climbed into his 2001 crew cab Dodge Ram pickup truck and headed to see another friend. The 44-year-old St. Nazianz man, described by his family as a trucker and former farmer who loved to fish, was headed south across the lake just south of Quinney. He didn't have a shanty on the lake; he was there to visit with some who did.

As he drove, Kleinhans didn't realize or remember he was

approaching that wide crack in the ice, Richard Schneider said, though he had driven near it with Schneider three times the week before.

As Kleinhans drove to a friend's shanty that Saturday, Savannah talked on the two-way radio with her aunt, Schneider recalls. The girl periodically said: "Can you

hear me, Barb? Can you hear me, Barb?" "Then she didn't say that anymore," Schneider said.

Kleinhans's truck had come to the wide crack in the ice and plunged into the water, nose first. It sank quickly, its grill coming to rest on the lake's mud bottom as the rear bumper stayed hooked on ice just above the water line. "A truck just went in the lake off of Quinney," a man reported to the Calumet County 911 Center. The driver, he told the dispatcher, "hasn't come out yet."

Within a mile or two of where Kleinhans's truck stood nose-down in the lake, more than two-dozen members of the Stockbridge Fire Department — roughly two-thirds of the force — were fishing. Firefighter Mike Funk, one of five department members trained in ice rescue, was about 4 miles north, just off Stockbridge Harbor. When the 911 Center sent out a page, he and the other firefighters sprang into action.

Funk figures it took four or five minutes for him to reach the stationhouse. Assistant Fire Chief Ed Kuhn already was on his way to the shoreline when Funk jumped into the department's rescue van with several others from the department.

Funk drove the van as the

others put their water-rescue suits on. With him were Chuck Ecker, who had been fishing off Stockbridge Harbor and headed the 1.5 miles to the station when his pager went off, as well

as firefighter Brandon Hoerth and firefighters Steve Hammen and Nick Kuhn, who worked as line tenders.



**A vehicle is chained to the ice to prevent it from sinking all the way after it broke through the ice Feb. 14, during sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago. (The Reporter file photo by Patrick Flood)**

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The Stockbridge department has rescued fishermen and snowmobiles that went through the ice, but in Funk's almost 17 years with the department, rescuers never had responded to a call of an occupied submerged vehicle. As the rescue van headed down State 55 to Quinney, five miles away, Kuhn's mind raced. He had the

911 Center dispatch a ThedaStar medical helicopter, Gold Cross Ambulance and a couple of wreckers, to secure the sinking truck.

The scene on shore, Kuhn said, was chaos. Many people were leaving the lake as the daily noontime closing neared. Others were waiting at or heading to the registration station at the Quinney Quencher, a local bar.

Stockbridge may be the Sturgeon Capital of the World, but Quinney, an unincorporated community five miles south of Stockbridge and 23 miles southeast of Appleton, is a popular entrance point to the lake for winter sports enthusiasts, and it has the only access point to the lake for miles. The road around there was busy.

Capt. Dave Woelfel had to make sure fire-department vehicles, ambulances had access to the lake. Lt. Josh Carney waited at the shore in his pickup truck. When the rescue van arrived, the five firefighters inside piled into the back of Carney's pickup with their equipment; they couldn't take the rescue van or an ambulance on the ice because both vehicles are too heavy. Eventually, Carney and at least three other people used pickups and vans to shuttle rescue workers and paramedics to the scene.

Firefighters Tim Hemauer and Gary Karls, who had been spearing 2.5 miles west and slightly north of Quinney, headed straight for the sunken truck from their fishing spots.

Karls worked to secure the truck so it couldn't sink further. Rescuers didn't know then that the front bumper of the truck, which had all its windows up and its doors locked, was resting on the muddy bottom of the lake. At 20 feet, 6 inches long, the truck was longer than the lake was deep. The floor of Winnebago is 17 feet down at that spot. "When I looked in the water," Karls said, "you couldn't see anybody."

Chilton Fire Chief Gary Halbach was one of the first on the scene, Karls said. Halbach rounded up ropes and straps from fishermen in the area. Karls and Hemauer borrowed long pike poles from fishermen but waited for the ice rescue team before trying to break a window out of Kleinhans's truck in case a victim floated out.

A bystander had a rope around Karls and was holding him on the edge of the ice. "There were probably 50 people standing around, but some of them were definitely helping," Karls said.

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Fire Chief William Van Hoorn arrived and assumed command from his location across the crack. By then there were six or eight emergency medical service personnel and 10 or 12 of his firefighters on scene, he said. Funk and his partners entered the water, but couldn't open any doors or windows.



With the pike poles, Karls and Hemauer broke the rear window and were able to hook the girls and pull them out from the rear seat. They couldn't get the larger Kleinhans, who was still in the front seat.

Aimee Zeinert, a first responder, firefighter and EMT, was 1.6 miles off shore, about halfway between Quinney and Stockbridge, when the page came. She got to the truck in a minute or two. But she was on the wrong side of the crack.

A man she didn't know gave her a ride two miles south and across the crack, and then back up. She was at the rear of the truck when rescuers pulled out the girls.

The ice-rescue team used a fisherman's underwater camera to see if there was any way to free the driver. They thought they could try to hook the front tire and bring vehicle up and to look into cab, but their efforts were fruitless.

The Fond du Lac County dive team arrived soon after, with an equipment truck and command vehicle.

About a half hour later, divers removed Dan Kleinhans from the truck. Kleinhans was pronounced dead at the scene. Savannah died about four hours later at Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah.

Dombrowski, who is at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, is in critical condition. Calumet County Medical Examiner Mike Klaeser ruled that Dan Kleinhans drowned. The call seemed like a blur but also seemed to last a very long time, Ecker said." It went fast," he said. "It still seemed forever when it came to the end."

Two days later, at the department's normal Monday night meeting, counselors met with firefighters, first responders and others



involved in the rescue.

That's routine for full-time police and fire departments involved in tragedies, but was the first time it was needed here, Chief Van Hoorn said. "It was kind of tough on the guys," he said. "Some of the guys have kids that age too."

Ecker has two sons, ages 15 and 17, and two daughters 10 and 12. He couldn't stop thinking about the rescue when he took his youngest fishing the day after the tragedy.

What little solace rescuers can find stems from one hope: that Dombrowski will survive. "If the girl pulls through," Funk said, "that makes it all worth it."

### **Myponga reservoir search unsuccessful**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/23/2499256.htm?section=justin>

Feb 23, 2009

- [Map: Myponga 5202](#)
- [Related Story: Dam search for elderly woman](#)

**Australia** -A search of the Myponga reservoir for the body of a missing woman has been unsuccessful. Major crime detectives believe the reservoir is the most likely place Vonne McGlynn's body was dumped, but after an extensive search by police divers there is still no sign of the 83-year-old's remains.

Police say there is no doubt she was murdered after finding blood at her Reynella home and DNA in a car seized during investigations. Police

have also begun searching a creek bed at Christie Downs for Ms McGlynn's personal items, including her handbag and purse which have gone missing from her home.

Search crews have also been instructed to look for a possible murder weapon.

Ms McGlynn's brother, Tony Smallwood, says he has been encouraged by recent reports of new information about his sister's disappearance. "We were very heartened by it and felt that 'Gee, you know, the inquiries are closing in' and then when the dam thing came up we were absolutely elated and sure they were onto something," he said. "When we heard that they'd found nothing it was a bit deflating."



**A search of the Myponga reservoir for the body of Vonne McGlynn has been unsuccessful. (ABC News)**

## Human bone found during search for woman

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/756334/bone-found-as-search-for-woman-continues>

Feb 24 2009

**Bone and tissue found near a creek, during a police search for missing Adelaide woman Vonne McGlynn, have been confirmed as being human.**



**Video: Hotel Guest Finds Body In Conn. River**

Late Tuesday, police said the material was still being tested to confirm whether the DNA matched that of the missing 83-year-old. The material was found in an area along the Christie Creek, south of the city.

The area has been declared a crime scene and has been closed off for further investigations. A police spokesman said forensic DNA results should be known later this week.

Mrs McGlynn has been missing since December with police fearing she is dead. Her disappearance was declared a major crime late in 2008.

As well as the search along Christie Creek, police divers searched the Myponga reservoir on Monday, without result.

Police also planned to search other areas as part of the investigation but did not reveal those locations. Media reports said one person had been interviewed in relation to Mrs McGlynn's disappearance and that police found DNA evidence in a car which was seen near the woman's southern suburbs home last year.

## Woman's Body Found In Conn. River

*Body Discovered By Hotel Guest*

<http://www.wfsb.com/news/18771021/detail.html>

February 22, 2009 VIDEO ON SITE

**HARTFORD, Conn. --**

Police are investigating the case of a female body that was removed from the Connecticut River under the Bulkeley Bridge.

A man who was a guest at the Sheraton Hotel at 100 East River Drive was walking along the path next to the river at about 9:30



**The search for Vonne McGlynn continues after bones and tissue were uncovered in an Adelaide creek.**

a.m. Sunday when he saw the body, police said. The man immediately returned to the hotel to notify police.

The police arrived and called fire department officials to help them remove the body from the water. A crime scene diver assisted. The body was about 8 feet out into the river and stuck on something, police said.

It is unknown how long the body had been in the water. The medical examiner's office will investigate the cause of death, according to police. Police noted that the winter weather slows the decomposition process.

Police have not determined if there was foul play. The woman was wearing light clothing and pajama bottoms. The woman's race has not been determined.

A coat was found near the scene, although it is unclear if it is

## Death Of Woman Found In River Still Unexplained

<http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-ehdbody0224.artfeb24.0.5202721.story>

February 24, 2009 By CHRISTINE DEMPSEY | The Hartford Courant

**EAST HARTFORD** — - An autopsy revealed no signs of trauma on the body of a woman found in the Connecticut River over the weekend.

But police still don't know how the woman died. They are waiting for the results of toxicology tests to determine whether her death was a homicide, suicide or accident, said Hugo Benettieri, department spokesman.

"No outward signs of trauma" were evident on the woman, such as bullet holes or stab wounds, during the autopsy, he said.

"Our investigation continues, and we're following up on some strong leads, based on us working closely with another law enforcement agency," Benettieri said Monday evening.

A guest at the Sheraton hotel found the body about 9:30 a.m. Sunday while walking in Great River Park, which runs along the river. He immediately returned to the hotel, and police were called.

Emergency services workers found the body 8 to 10 feet from shore. It was brought to shore with the help of a police diver about 12:30 p.m.



The woman was wearing light clothing, possibly pajama bottoms, police said. Parts of her body were covered in algae. It is not known how long the body was in the water, but police said the cold water may have helped to preserve it.

Police said that until more information is known, the death is being investigated as a possible crime.

Anyone with information about the woman is asked to contact the lead investigator, Det. William Turley, at 860-291-7605.



## No answers in Britt Laphorne case

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25101807-24218,00.html>

February 25, 2009

**WHAT have they got to hide? It is a question that needs to be asked as Croatian authorities put still more obstacles in front of the parents of Melbourne backpacker Britt Laphorne.**

Dale and Elke Laphorne, shown holding their daughter's photograph, have been told they cannot hire scuba divers to look for clues to her possible murder.

But it is now five months since Britt Laphorne's body was found in the sea near Dubrovnik after she was last seen at a nightclub. Her camera, shoulder bag and clothing are still missing.

Police say they have not been able to conduct their own search because the water is "too cold". They also say no one else can look because the bay where the body was found is "a crime scene", which is extraordinary when no attempt has been made to keep anyone else away from the area.

No less extraordinary is an official message from Croatia's interior ministry to Ms Laphorne's parents through the Australian Federal Police, warning them off.



**Britt Laphorne,  
Australian girl who went  
missing in Croatia**

Croatian police themselves came under suspicion after women outside the Dubrovnik nightclub said they were harassed by men who tried to get them into a van and who were later identified as undercover police officers.



While it appears Ms Laphorne was kidnapped and murdered, the cause of her death has not been established because of the time the body was in the water.

But whatever the difficulties of the case, the Croatian authorities must press on with an investigation that has been marked by the inability of the police to do more than defend their own.

### **BRITT LAPTHORNE CASE Officers Were Not Hidden From Australian Reporters**

Dubrovnik police chief denied claims concerning the two police officers on photo fits.

[http://www.javno.com/en-croatia/officers-were-not-hidden-from-australian-reporters\\_237185](http://www.javno.com/en-croatia/officers-were-not-hidden-from-australian-reporters_237185)

**DUBROVNIK, CROATIA** – Zlatko Sokolar, Dubrovnik-Neretva police chief, denied claims of the *Vecernji list* daily, concerning two police officers Ivan Elez and Sladjan Dodik. The paper wrote that the police officers identified according to the photo fits of violators were linked with the death of Australian backpacker Britt Laphorne and kidnapping attempt of three more foreign tourists.

#### **Dubrovnik Police Investigating Wrong Officers**

Sokolar claims that the drawings have nothing to do with the case of late Britt Laphorne and that the “officers from the headline were not persons on the drawings”.

Furthermore, the *Vecernji list* daily guesses that Elez and Dodik were relocated to another police station when the documentary on the death of Britt Laphorne was being filmed in Dubrovnik, so that they could be hidden from the cameras.

**“We claim with conviction that the police officers from the headline are not persons from showed photo fits. It should be reiterated that these drawings have nothing to do with the case of late Britt Laphorne and are not linked with any of the reported felonies under the jurisdiction of this police department or the Republic of Croatia.”**  
**Zlatko Sokolar**

The transfer of mentioned employees has nothing to do with the arrival of these reporters, or any other event, apart from intensifying measures when it comes to fighting narcotics. We point out that officers Dragan Palameta and Ivica Rudinovic actively took part in fighting crimes dealing with narcotics, who were subject to media and other pressures, together with their families, without any foundations, while other police officials have now been subject to the unprofessional approach of certain reporters – Sokolar denied the claims of the *Vecernji list* daily.

The police chief looked thanked the citizens who helped the police by providing technical means and equipment, necessary to again examine the bottom of the sea, where Britt Laphorne`s body was found.

Sokolar pointed out that Dubrovnik police was taking further steps in looking into the young backpacker's death, in co-operation with the Croatian Interior Ministry, Federal Australian police and police departments of other countries.

#### Related Articles

- **Dubrovnik Police Investigating Wrong Officers**
- **Investigation Started Against Dubrovnik Police?**
- **Dale Laphorne: Croatian Police Ignore Evidence**
- **Police on Documentary About Britt's Killer**
- **Dubrovnik Residents Knew of Kidnapers for Months**



Those close to Britt Laphorne say their final farewell to her by throwing white rose petals into the water where she was found dead

#### Laphorne: Croatian Police Afraid of Investigation

[http://www.javno.com/en-croatia/laphorne--croatian-police-afraid-of-investigation\\_237256](http://www.javno.com/en-croatia/laphorne--croatian-police-afraid-of-investigation_237256)

"The parents intended to hire divers to search the area of the sea in Dubrovnik where Britt's body was found, but the police refused their request, as that would be illegal. According to Croatian law, foreign citizens cannot conduct investigations on Croatian soil and any evidence they might find would not be admissible in court because it was not found by a police officer."

#### Man dies, another injured as SUV plunges into river

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20090225/NEWS01/902250334/1001/NEWS>

02/25/09 Kevin Grasha •  
Lansing State Journal • From  
Lansing State Journal

A man died Tuesday after the sport utility vehicle he was driving jumped a bridge guardrail and plunged into the Red Cedar River, police said

Two men, who authorities did not identify, were inside the Mercury Mountaineer, which ended up submerged in the river. The passenger was not believed to be seriously injured, police said. Employees at Kwik Car Wash, which is adjacent to the Cedar Street bridge, saw the SUV go up a concrete ramp-like barrier that leads to the guardrail, roll over in mid-air, then disappear over a steep embankment into the river.

"(The SUV) jumped the guardrail," car wash employee Jessie Williams said. "When I looked up, it already had turned over."

The cause of the accident, which was reported shortly before 1 p.m., is still under investigation. Witnesses said the SUV was airborne for nearly 100 feet.

Lansing police Lt. Jim Kraus said it is believed the SUV had a flat tire before the accident. A customer at the car wash, along with off-duty Lansing police Officer Matt Kreft and two on-duty officers, Norm Naimy and Quincy Scroggins, rescued both men from the SUV.

The passenger was able to get to the SUV's roof and wait for help. The driver had to be rescued from inside the SUV, which was submerged in water authorities said was 8



**Fatal plunge: Police said an SUV rode up and over this cement barrier on Cedar Street and plunged into the Red Cedar River. Greg DeRuiter/Lansing State Journal**

to 10 feet deep.

The customer, an unidentified man, dove into the frigid water and pulled out the trapped victim and passed him along to the officers, witnesses said. "They put themselves at great risk," Kraus said

At about 2:45 p.m., Northside Heavy Rescue and Crane Service lifted the SUV out of the river with a crane. Another Northside wrecker helped pull the vehicle onto the Cedar Street Bridge.

Divers from the Capital Area Dive Team hooked up the SUV to the crane. The Mountaineer's windshield was smashed and the entire driver's side was heavily dented. Both air bags had deployed.

All the officers and the customer who jumped into the river were taken to the hospital to be checked out but were not believed to be seriously injured, Kraus said.



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## Recovered vehicle determined to be stolen

<http://www.sooeveningnews.com/news/x1959824674/Recovered-vehicle-determined-to-be-stolen>

02/25/2009 By Scott Brand Sault Ste. Marie Evening News

**St. Ignace, Mich.**— New information has come to light regarding a 1979 Pontiac Catalina found in the Straits of Mackinac during a 2007 practice session conducted by the Michigan State Police Underwater Recovery Unit.

The unit, according to reports, was doing routine exercises in March of 2007 when a member of the dive team found the vehicle resting on its roof in approximately 30 feet of water.

Due to the heavy silt and position of the vehicle, divers were unable to determine if anyone was inside during the initial discovery — returning approximately a month later with flotation devices to bring the automobile back to the surface.

St. Ignace Police Chief Tim Matelski said the condition of the vehicle left very few clues as to the former owner, especially since all of the metal vehicle identification numbers (VIN)



had corroded beyond recognition. Authorities were able to pry open the driver's side door and access a plastic Vin number, however, providing a key clue in this case. "You know what they say — plastic lasts forever," said Matelski. "Well, it's true."

The information from the VIN number has only recently brought some closure to local authorities. The Pontiac Catalina, according to police records, was reported stolen to the Auburn Hills police Department on May 4, 1981.

Matelski said he was unable to glean any more information regarding this matter as the records were more than 25 years old and had already been purged by the downstate police force. "They no longer have any copies, not even on computer disk," said Matelski of the investigative dead end.


The St. Ignace Police Chief said at least part of the mystery was solved, but expressed some disbelief over the time line. If the vehicle really had been stolen on May 4, 1981, it would have been



**Pulled from river: A wrecker with a large crane pulls a vehicle out of the Red Cedar River on Tuesday after the vehicle plunged into the river from southbound Cedar Street near Elm Street. (ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal)**

impossible for the Pontiac to have been driven out onto the ice off of St. Ignace. The recovered vehicle was found in gear with the ignition in the on switch. No human remains were located near the scene.

Fishermen utilizing the waters off of St. Ignace had been losing tackle and other accessories to this small piece of underwater structure for a quarter century, according to investigators, who noted various lures and a lone downrigger ball came to the surface with the Pontiac when it was pulled up back in 2007.



<http://www.mercurynews.com/2009/02/25/psddiver/>

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

## Lawyer wants pager evidence tossed in Monterey restaurant case

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11781456](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11781456)  
02/25/2009 Virginia Hennessey Monterey County Herald

**Monterey County, Calif.-** The lawyer for a Monterey restaurateur accused of tossing a competitor's seating pagers into the bay is arguing the evidence is inadmissible in court because it was seized without a search warrant.

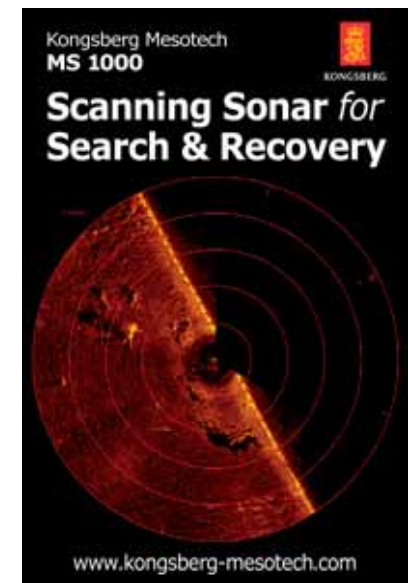
Richard Rosen, defense attorney for Sam Mercurio, co-owner of Domenico's on the Wharf, argues that accuser Chris Shake, owner of Old Fisherman's Grotto, hired a diver to search for his pagers under Mercurio's restaurant so he could pursue criminal prosecution. Rosen maintains he was acting as an agent of the government and needed a warrant.

Two dives, he says, were conducted with the tacit approval of Monterey police.

Prosecutors say Mercurio's Fourth Amendment rights were not violated because the dives were conducted by a private party and Mercurio has no reasonable expectation of privacy in the water under his restaurant. The motion will be argued before Judge Tom Wills on Thursday.

Last fall, according to court documents, Shake began noticing the disappearance of pagers he gives to customers to allow them to wander the wharf while waiting for a table.

Shake, who suspected a competitor was wooing his customers and dumping the



devices, hired diver Don Maulhardt to search under the wharf. On two dives, Maulhardt recovered 10 pagers from the harbor's bottom, allegedly beneath Domenico's.



Mercurio has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor petty theft charge. Beyond the fact that the dive was initiated for purposes of prosecution, Rosen said in a motion filed this week, evidence will show that Monterey police were notified after the first dive and encouraged Maulhardt to dive again.

In fact, Rosen said, they had Maulhardt in the water beneath Domenico's when they set up a sting with an undercover officer Nov. 19. That officer posed as a patron with one of the Grotto's pagers on the wharf. Mercurio allegedly persuaded the officer to dine at his restaurant and took the pager, promising to return it to the Grotto.

All the while, Rosen states in his motion, Maulhardt was beneath the wharf waiting for a splash that never came.

Mercurio has the right to expect privacy beneath his restaurant, the attorney argues, because his lease makes

him responsible for maintaining that portion of the wharf and city ordinance prohibits diving there.

## Police cleared in icy river drowning Officers tried to get man off ice before he fell through

<http://www.thespec.com/News/Local/article/523065>

March 02, 2009 **JOHN BURMAN**

**BRANTFORD** – A 32-year-old Oakville man ran out onto the frozen Grand River and ignored Brantford police officers' pleas to return to the banks before he crashed through the ice and drowned. That's the conclusion of the Ontario Special Investigations Unit probe into the death of Benjamin Wood in the river early Jan. 20 near the Brantford Casino. The SIU said Brantford police were not responsible for Wood's death.

SIU director Ian Scott said in a station a police officer had located a stolen car near the river and followed a set of footprints in the



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snow toward the ice-covered bank where he found Wood standing out on the ice.

Wood approached the officer and a struggle ensued, the SIU said. The officer pulled away from Wood and the man ran out onto the river as the officer called for backup.

Other officers arrived, they pleaded with Wood to get off the ice. Wood refused. Instead he walked and then ran further out into the centre of the ice-covered river. He crashed through the ice and drowned. OPP divers recovered Wood's body from the river at noon the same day.

The SIU is a civilian agency that investigates cases of serious injury, sexual assault and death involving the police.

### **Police recover wrecks from vehicle graveyard – Georges River**

[http://www.australia.to/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6430:police-recover-wrecks-from-vehicle-graveyard--georges-river&catid=87:crime](http://www.australia.to/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6430:police-recover-wrecks-from-vehicle-graveyard--georges-river&catid=87:crime)

Police led by the Liverpool Local Area Command have begun an operation to recover scores of dumped vehicles from the Georges River in Sydney's south-west.

The Liverpool Anti-Theft Unit has commenced "Operation Submerged", salvaging up to 18 vehicles, suspected of

being stolen and abandoned in the river off the Davey Robinson Boat Ramp at Chipping Norton.

Local police are being assisted by the Marine Area Command Diving Team and Crime Scene staff from Campbelltown.

Also assisting are personnel from NSW Maritime, the NSW Fire Brigades, the State Emergency Service, Liverpool Council and heavy haul tow-truck operators.

In the last such operation in July, 2007, police recovered around 60 stolen cars from the river. "Vehicles dumped in the river create a range of hazards, environmentally and from a marine navigation point of view," said Inspector Dave Scrimgeour. "Rusting and deteriorating vehicles pollute the river and the last thing a boat skipper needs is to strike a submerged wreck," Insp. Scrimgeour added.

Once the vehicles have been recovered from the river, they will be towed to police holding yards and forensically examined.

"In some cases the cars have been used in criminal activities, such



as car rebirthing rackets or robberies," Insp. Scrimgeour said.

"Operation Submerged is a three day operation and in these types of investigations, it's common for the police divers to find themselves working in challenging environments, battling strong river currents and cold water temperatures."

Anyone with information about vehicles being dumped in the river or illegally disposed of elsewhere is urged to contact their local police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## Water Rescue Turns Fatal In Dayton

<http://www.whiotv.com/community/18848536/detail.html>

March 4, 2009 [Mike Campbell](#), Reporter

**DAYTON, Ohio** -- A woman in her 60s has died after the car she was driving plunged into an icy pond. The crash happened around 10 p.m. Tuesday at the eastbound Route 35 ramp from Gettysburg Avenue in Dayton.

Firefighters worked for 90 minutes to pull the woman out of her submerged vehicle, but she died early Wednesday morning at Miami Valley Hospital. Police said the woman was traveling east on Route 35 when she tried to exit onto Gettysburg Avenue, lost control, slammed through a guardrail and drove into the pond.

Sgt. Joseph Wiesman said, "We got here and the vehicle was all underwater. You could see the lights down under the water."

Dozens of Dayton firefighters and police officers arrived and began to work on freeing the woman. Firefighters said since they had no trained divers available to dive to the car and hook a cable to its frame, two firefighters put on wet suits and went into the frigid water.

The firefighters were tethered to other firefighters on shore and were watched closely by two others in a boat. Firefighters managed to get a wire around the door of the vehicle, but they were only able to tow it about 8 feet before the door broke loose.

Firefighters then managed to get a cable more securely around the car and pull it out of the water with the use of a tow truck. The woman was quickly removed, wrapped for warmth and then carried her to a waiting ambulance. She was taken to Miami Valley Hospital, where she later died.

Upset and disappointed firefighters said





budget cuts that have accumulated over the years have limited their options. District Fire Chief Mark Whisman said, "If we would have had a dive team, we would have had her out in 15 minutes. Absolutely would have made a difference." He said, "It's very frustrating; you'd have to talk to politicians about that, as a fire chief, it's very frustrating."



**Coby Copeland's car broke through this guardrail at the entrance ramp to U.S. 35 at Gettysburg Avenue.**

Whisman said, "Due to the fact that she traveled a far distance and there was no signs of braking, this may have been a medical condition that caused her to lose control."

Firefighters said Box 21, a volunteer dive team in Dayton, did not have any divers in town on Tuesday night, and the nearest dive team they could contact was in Piqua. That dive team was enroute when firefighters cancelled them after getting the woman out. The woman's name has not been released.

### **Did lack of divers slow rescue attempt?**

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2009/03/05/dn030509diveteam.html>

Thursday, March 05, 2009 By [Kyle Nagel](#) Staff Writer

Dayton fire officials spent Wednesday, March 4, searching for other area municipalities with rescue dive teams to call in situations like Tuesday's that caused the death of a 61-year-old Dayton woman whose car sat at the bottom of an icy pond for 95 minutes.

The lack of such a team was highlighted Tuesday when Coby Copeland died after her PT Cruiser crashed through an on-ramp guardrail and slid into the pond between U.S. 35 East and Gettysburg Avenue.

That rescue time could have been cut to as little as 20 minutes if the department still had a dive team, fire officials said. Instead, officials contacted the volunteer Box 21, whose dive group was not available, and then the Piqua Fire Department, whose team was not used because Copeland's PT Cruiser was recovered before it arrived.

Copeland was removed from the car at 11:11 p.m., and she was pronounced dead near midnight."It's very



**Dayton firefighters work to rescue Coby Copeland from her PT Cruiser, which plunged into a retention pond along U.S. 35 at Gettysburg Avenue on Tuesday night, March 3. Copeland was pronounced dead after being trapped in her car for 95 minutes.**

frustrating," District Chief Mark Whisman told reporters Tuesday night, "you'll have to talk to the politicians on that."

The city's dive team was disbanded in January 2003.

City of Dayton spokesman Tom Biedenharn referred questions to Assistant Fire Chief Michael Caudill.

Shrinking budgets and other outside factors have caused many municipalities across the country, including Dayton, to stop equipping and training personnel to serve as underwater rescuers. Because such dive teams are expensive and generally used relatively little, they are often high on the list of possible cuts, local and national officials said. "We try to provide the most appropriate resources that we can with our budget and our limitations," Caudill said.

[City cut dive team in 2003](#) \* [Woman had passed out before](#)

## **Gruesome beach discovery on a beautiful Easter day**

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/80657-gruesome-beach-discovery-on-a-beautiful-easter-day/>

06 March 2009

The image of two young girls playing on a beach could hardly have been further removed from the horror of what was about to follow.

The image of two young girls playing on a beach could hardly have been further removed from the horror of what was about to follow.

The sisters, aged eight and 11, were enjoying the spring sunshine of a Tuesday morning in Arbroath during the Easter school holiday when their attention was attracted by a carrier bag.



What they found inside would cause shockwaves far beyond the small Angus town where the bag washed up. When reports first began circulating that a severed human head had been found on the shoreline, many were sceptical.

### **RESOURCES**

[Two men jailed for Jolanta Bledaite murder](#)

[Man found guilty of murdering Jolanta Bledaite](#)

[Jolanta Bledaite – A Profile](#)

The date of the discovery - April 1 - left them with the impression they were merely victims of a prank. The facts were soon established, though, and soon a hand was found washed up nearby.

Residents of the seafront houses looked on as dozens of officers from Tayside Police arrived on the scene. Forensic officers in white suits spent much of the day on the sand examining the remains, while officers stood guard by the cordoned-off beach warding off curious onlookers who came too close.



Behind the scenes, officers were also beginning the process of trawling through missing persons files in the hope of identifying the woman. The following day brought with it confirmation of a second hand found on the beach and, as the cordon came down around the beach, the focus shifted 12 miles along the road to Brechin.

Within Earlsden House in Southesk Street, a block of flats popular with Eastern European migrants, forensic teams worked as police sealed off the outside of the building. As door-to-door inquiries were carried out, police searched the town's River Esk, where three knives were eventually found.

## IDENTIFIED

A few streets away, in the town's Hill View area, residents described seeing CID officers leading a young man from one of the properties during an evening raid. By Friday, the victim had been identified as 35-year-old Lithuanian migrant worker Jolanta Bledaite. The same day, police announced that two men, aged 19 and 40 and also Lithuanian, had been arrested in connection with the body parts discovery.

Details gradually emerged of Ms Bledaite as her family spoke about her for the first time. Sarunas Bleda, 60, told of a hard-working daughter who had been in the UK earning money for his cancer treatment. Further developments were meanwhile unfolding in Arbroath, where body parts were found in a suitcase at the harbour by a team of police divers.

As the two suspects continued to be interviewed, police moved to reassure the community of Angus in the wake of the week's events. The following week, in Forfar, Vitas Plytnykas and Aleksandras Skirda appeared in court charged with Ms Bledaite's murder.

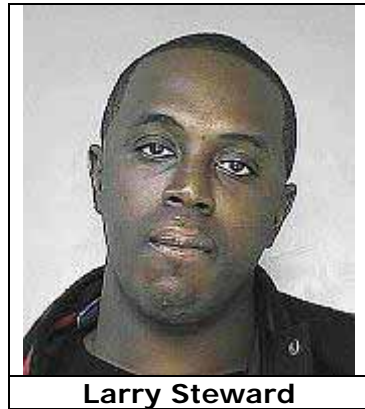
By October, six months after the young girls' gruesome find, Skirda admitted murdering Ms Bledaite. Plytnykas, a former Russian Army soldier and convicted killer, was found guilty of her murder last month after a trial at the High Court in Edinburgh.

## Body in Fox River is missing Naperville man

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/1462725\\_Body-found-near-Fox-River-AU030509.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/1462725_Body-found-near-Fox-River-AU030509.article)

March 6, 2009 By MATT HANLEY

Aurora police on Thursday recovered the body of a 26-year-old Naperville man who had been missing for at least four days.



**Larry Steward**

The body of Larry Steward, of Whispering Hills Drive, was spotted by police on the very southern tip of Hurds Island in the Fox River. The body was found almost directly across

from the Aurora Animal Control building at 600 S. River St., very near where Steward was last seen.

The body was discovered while police were searching for Steward in the 500 block of Rosewood on the east bank of the Fox River.

Investigators had a dog on loan from Joliet police. As the dog followed a scent, an investigator saw the body in the river, police said.

The body was found face down, lying against a riverbank at the very southern tip of Hurds Island at about 1 p.m., police said. Around 1:30 p.m., an airboat from the Aurora Fire Department recovered the body and placed it in a large yellow bag.



• **Body recovered in Fox**

Police would not comment on whether there was any trauma to the body. The Kane County coroner's office is expected to conduct an autopsy this morning, at which point a cause of death could be determined.

Steward was reported missing by a family member on Sunday. At the time, police said they believed his disappearance was gang-related and that an investigation had uncovered suspicious circumstances.

Police would not comment on what made the man's disappearance suspicious. Steward was last seen wearing a black shirt, shiny black pants, and black and gray gym shoes. The clothes on the body matched Steward's.

While bringing the body back to shore, the rescue airboat sank about 15 feet off the east bank of the Fox River. Although three rescue crew members were on the boat with the body, no one was injured when the boat sank. The airboat later was pulled out of the river by an Aurora tow truck. The Kane County coroner's office took possession of Steward's body.



**Aurora police recover a body from the Fox River on Thursday afternoon. Rescue workers used an Aurora Fire Department boat to transport the body, which could be a Naperville man who was reported missing earlier this week.**  
**(Marianne Mather / Staff Photographer)**

Anyone with information about Steward's disappearance is asked to call investigators at 630-801-6655 or Crime Stoppers at 630-892-1000. Callers to Crime Stoppers remain anonymous and qualify for a cash reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the arrest of suspect or suspects.

Steward's family could not be reached for comment.

## Fire Department Ends Dive Recovery Service

<http://www.ksmu.org/content/view/4210/66/>  
3/13/09 Written by Jennifer Moore

Citing budget and safety concerns, the Springfield Fire Department says it's ending the dive recovery portion of its water rescue program. KSMU's Jennifer Moore reports.

The decision is effective immediately.

Assistant Fire Chief David Hall said since the city is facing a tight budget, the dive recovery program, like others, has been under scrutiny for some time. "So, as part of the evaluation, we looked at what are the real risks, and what are the real benefits we've gotten. And while we have done some recovery-type diving, we've never had where we've saved a life through these particular events of the dive rescue," Hall said.

Hall said it costs the city over 12,000 dollars to train each diver, and the city also pays for the maintenance and annual inspection of the diving equipment. He

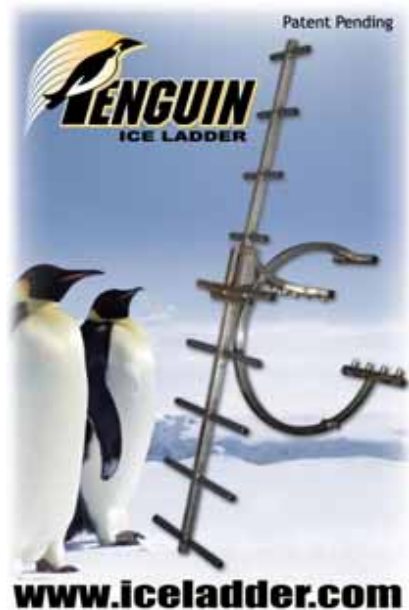
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added that the decision to end the dive recovery service was not based solely on money; there was also a safety concern for the firefighters who go underwater in search of missing people. "We've had a couple of instances where we've had firefighters that had close calls doing this. It is an extremely dangerous operation, even on just strictly recovery-types," Hall said.

The Springfield Fire Department will continue to provide swift water rescues for people caught in flash floods. However, if someone were to go missing in a body of water in Greene County, the department would now have to call the Missouri Water Patrol, or the Western Taney County Fire Protection District, which does have a dive recovery team.



Hall acknowledged that it would take longer for them to arrive on the scene.

The Springfield Fire Department has responded to five recoveries in as many years. Several of those recoveries have been for vehicles in nearby lakes or rivers.

## Springfield Fire Department Cuts Back

<http://www.kspr.com/news/local/41236047.html>

Mar 13, 2009 By KSPR News

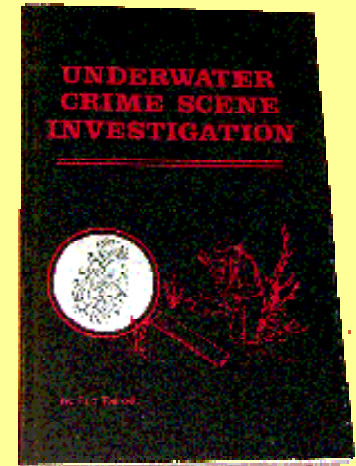
The Springfield Fire Department says is discontinuing the dive recovery portion of its water rescue program. Springfield firefighters have used divers since the 80s. Assistant Chief David Hall says divers have not been a factor in any life saving events.

He also says emergencies put those responders who dive at elevated levels of risk when working in a recovery mode. The Department will continue to provide swift water rescue.

### HISTORY:

Since January 2004, Water Rescue personnel have

## "Underwater Crime Scene Investigation" By Eric Tackett



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responded to five recoveries.

These have usually been for vehicles in the lakes and rivers around Springfield.

One vehicle recovery operation

nearly resulted in a tragic outcome when a diver required treatment in a hyperbaric chamber following an emergency ascent to the surface.



#### **WHY?**

While safety and a risk versus reward analysis are the main reasons for the change, there is also a significant cost associated with ongoing certification training and equipment testing to support the operations.

#### **WHO WILL DO DIVE RECOVERY?**

The Missouri Water Patrol currently provides dive recovery for the State of Missouri. In southwest Missouri, the Western Taney County Fire Protection District performs dive recovery.

Contract salvage divers are used by Springfield City Utilities.

#### **PI testifies in pager caper**

#### **E-mails dispute dates of retrieval**

[http://www.montereyherald.com/local/ci\\_11912989](http://www.montereyherald.com/local/ci_11912989)

03/14/2009 VIRGINIA HENNESSEY Herald Salinas Bureau

Sibling restaurateurs Dominic and Sam Mercurio predicted Friday the "tide is turning" in the case of the purloined pagers. Sam Mercurio's defense attorney, Richard Rosen, said the afternoon's testimony left him thinking something was fishy. "There is some type of secret action going on here and I'm determined to get to the bottom of it," Rosen said.

At issue are 10 seating pagers allegedly found in the sandy bottom of the bay beneath the Mercurios' restaurant, Domenico's on the Wharf. Prosecutors say the pagers belong to their competitor, Chris Shake, and were tossed into the bay by Sam Mercurio after he lured patrons away from Shake's restaurant, Old Fisherman's Grotto.

During a two-day evidentiary hearing, Rosen argued that Shake employing a diver to swim beneath Domenico's amounted to an illegal, warrantless search. Diver Don Maulhardt testified Thursday that he bagged seven pagers under Domenico's on Oct. 7 and put them in the basement of his commercial dive business.

But Friday, Rosen called to the stand Shake's private investigator, Paul Keene, who verified a number of e-mails between himself, Shake and Shake's attorney, Bill Daniels. The e-mails indicate the men believed the pagers

remained on the ocean floor until Monterey's police became involved and set up a sting operation Nov. 19.



That night, police investigator Jeremiah Ruttschow wandered outside Domenico's with one of Shake's pagers and was offered an immediate table by Sam Mercurio, according to testimony. Shake and Ruttschow had Maulhardt in the water waiting for a splash that never came.

At Ruttschow's instruction, Maulhardt testified, he went into the water again Nov. 20, recovered three more pagers he left behind the first time, and then turned over all 10 to the officer.

Keene confirmed Shake told him the pagers were found Oct. 7 and that he told Shake the devices should be photographed in place and not recovered until an independent party, himself or the police, was present to take them into evidence. Shake and Ruttschow testified they were unaware Maulhardt removed the pagers before Nov. 20.

### Pagers whereabouts

Rosen attacked Maulhardt's credibility, saying he doubted "the lowest operator in the chain of command is a rogue operative," who would not tell Shake, his lawyer and his investigator what he had done. "Can you believe this diver took the pagers out of the water and had (them) in his basement for a month and a half without telling anybody?" he said after the hearing.

Rosen said Keene's e-mails raised questions about whether the pagers were really found and if so, where they were found. "The question has to be when were (the pagers) moved, who moved them and why were they moved without telling" Shake, Keene and Daniels.

According to one e-mail entered into evidence, Shake said he "knew" from customers that one or more of his pagers were taken at Cafe Fina, another Mercurio restaurant. Maulhardt testified he searched under that wharf restaurant Oct. 9, but found nothing.

Whether prosecutors will be allowed to use the pagers as evidence remained a mystery Friday. Judge Tom Wills took





the matter under submission and said he will rule Thursday.

### Privacy protections

In his arguments, Rosen told Wills that Mercurio had an "expectation of privacy" on his leased property, despite Wills' earlier observation that Mercurio's lease reserves the city's rights to inspect the premises. He analogized it to a visitor in a hotel room who is aware the hotel has a key and will send a maid in every day, but who has a legal expectation to protection from warrantless police searches.

Prosecutor Mary Tatum said any privacy protections were waived by Mercurio when he leased his property and agreed to allow city inspections at any time. She said the lease did not extend to Monterey Bay, which kayakers, swimmers and surfers use every day.

She compared Maulhardt to a "loss-prevention officer" at Macy's who observes shoplifting, seizes the property and turns it over to police. He was paid by Shake, she said, and there was no state action. "The evidence proves without a doubt police did not get involved until after the (first



**M&J Engineering**  
12520 Kirkham Ct #1  
San Diego CA 92064  
United States  
Phone 1.858.748.9442  
Fax 1.858.679.1632

seven) pagers were recovered," she said.

Rosen said the evidence made it clear that the diver acted in concert with police when he recovered pagers at Ruttschow's direction Nov. 20. He noted, in his motion, it is against municipal code for anyone to dive, swim or kayak under the wharf without permission of the harbormaster, which Shake and Maulhardt did not have.

He said the "extraordinary e-mails" between Keene, Shake and Daniels take the issue beyond the legality of the search and could leave the case dead in the water.

### Boat located in deadly Sandy Island accident

[http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=10031838&nav=menu157\\_2](http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=10031838&nav=menu157_2)  
March 18, 2009 By Meghan Miller

**GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC** (WMBF) - Department of Natural Resources divers have found the boat that capsized near Sandy Island last month killing three people.

The divers found the boat 25 feet below the surface. The only part of the boat the divers brought to shore was the motor cover. They say they're going to take the cover and compare the identification numbers on it just to make sure those numbers match the owner's.



DNR Diver J.B. Kinsey says that because of the way the boat was sitting in the water, they are going to need more divers to help. "When the boat hits the bottom," explained



Kinsey, "The current flows, the sand hits up against the back of it and it's silted in and sanded in, especially the foot. I couldn't move it or rock it or shake it, so that's why we need additional divers to hook some lift bags up and try and float it."

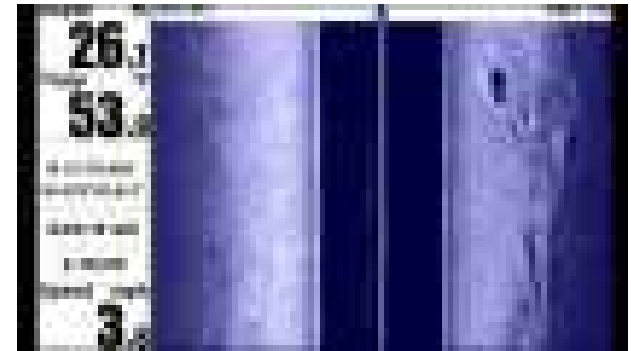
DNR investigators also say the boat appears to have some modifications - some additional seats added to it. However, they say it's still too early to tell if this had anything to do with the boat capsizing.

The DNR search crews say they expect to pull the boat out of the water early next week.

A Beaufort man sent DNR a tip Wednesday that he had found the boat that capsized in the Waccamaw River in February, killing three people and injuring one infant.

Robert Gecy says he and the two others went out on the water around 9 a.m. Wednesday and located the boat shortly before noon. He tells WMBF News they retrieved the boat's information and then called the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources with their findings. "We got on the water this morning pretty early," Gecy said. "After about 30 minutes we had located a target which we estimated to be the right size and it looked like the right kind of boat."

Gecy says he used side scan sonar to look for the boat, making it fairly easy to locate.

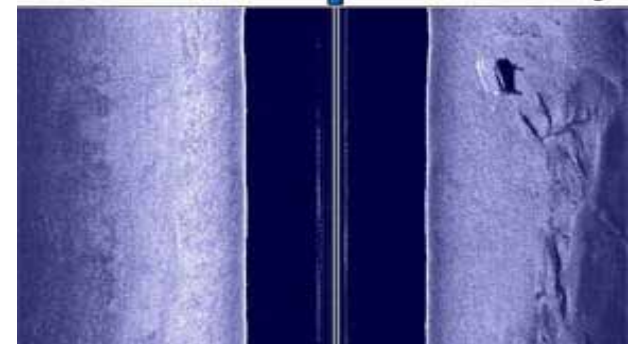


### **Boat found in tragic Sandy Island accident**

**2: 09**

[http://www.wctm.com/Global/story.asp?S=10031838&nav=menu157\\_2#](http://www.wctm.com/Global/story.asp?S=10031838&nav=menu157_2#)

information and then called the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources with their findings. "We got on the water this morning pretty early," Gecy said. "After about 30 minutes we had located a target which we



Boat is shown as small object on upper right-hand side of photo

The DNR says officials will arrive to the site where the boat was located at 8 a.m. Thursday morning.

According to officials, Shaquatia Robinson, Lou Ann Robinson and Rishard Pyatt were killed in February when the 15-foot boat they were in capsized near the shore of the Waccamaw River Wednesday night. Representatives from the Coast Guard say in all, six people - four adults, one child and an infant - were inside of the boat when the accident occurred.

Coroner Kenny Johnson said Friday that autopsies confirmed all three died from drowning. Johnson told WMBF News the boat was just 30 yards from Sandy Island when it overturned.

One adult in the boat was able to




Sonar image of boat possibly involved in Sandy Island accident (Photo courtesy of Robert Gecy)

swim to shore shortly after the incident to call 911 for assistance from a cell phone. The boat operator, Tiffany Tucker, and her 5-year-old son were the only two survivors.

Johnson says those on-board the boat were headed back home when it capsized. He believes the boat is probably at the bottom of the Intracoastal Waterway. A Good Samaritan, Charles Pyatt, is being credited Thursday evening with the rescue of the 1-year-old Zyair Smalls from the water. He remains in critical condition at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

The U.S. Coast Guard says its rescue team searched for 27 hours for those missing by helicopter and boat. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and the Midway Fire Department all assisted in the search.

Officials say just a few families live on Sandy Island, a Gullah community only accessible by boat.



**Issue 55**  
Rope safety, Trauma-Tourniquets, Market Guides, Ontario EMS deals with epilepsy, Surfboards for swift water rescue?, MUCH MORE!  
<http://t-rescue.com>

## INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

Rear Admiral Paul Higgins M.D. Director of Health and Safety U.S. Coast Guard

[http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Testimony&Hearing\\_ID=88363fc4-440e-4bba-b3b2-facf8936e802&Witness\\_ID=66cfe7c7-d24a-46c8-9475-fe34b58397de](http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Testimony&Hearing_ID=88363fc4-440e-4bba-b3b2-facf8936e802&Witness_ID=66cfe7c7-d24a-46c8-9475-fe34b58397de)

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U. S. COAST GUARD STATEMENT OF RDML WAYNE JUSTICE AND RADM PAUL HIGGINS ON THE

### The Future of the Coast Guard Dive Program

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS,  
ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES & COAST GUARD  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE &  
TRANSPORTATION

U. S. SENATE MARCH 28, 2007

Good morning Madam Chairwoman and distinguished members of the Committee. This is a joint statement of Rear Admiral Wayne Justice, Assistant Commandant for Response, and Rear Admiral Paul Higgins, the Director of the Health and Safety Directorate, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters. We appear before you today to discuss the Coast Guard's Diving Program, lessons learned from

the accident onboard CGC HEALY, and the steps taken to prevent future diving accidents.

#### **OVERVIEW OF DIVING PROGRAM:**

The Coast Guard has conducted diving operations since the 1940s. Early diving missions included Aids to Navigation (ATON) and Polar Icebreaker Support. Recently, however, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> prompted a significant expansion of the CG Diving program.

Prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>, there were only 6 dive capable units (3 Pacific-based buoy tenders and 3 polar icebreakers). After September 11<sup>th</sup>, 13 Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSST) were created, all with a dive capability, to conduct our security mission. Presently, there are 17 units with a designated diving capability (12 MSSTs and 5 cutters).

#### **DIVING MISSIONS:**

The Coast Guard has three primary diving missions. Port, Waterway, and Coastal Security; Aids to Navigation (ATON); and Polar Icebreaker and Science Support.

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

**Port, Waterways, and Coastal Security** – Coast Guard port security divers conduct routine and threat-driven underwater operations that include sweeping of piers and vessel hulls to locate, identify, and mark hazardous underwater devices.

While public safety divers (those belonging to the police and fire departments) may be available for routine operations, it is likely that they will be unavailable to support underwater port security missions during a crisis.

**Aids to Navigation** – The Coast Guard uses divers in the Pacific region of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Kwajalein, Midway Island, and Wake Island to service navigation aids that are in shallow water and beyond the reach of a cutter. Divers are the only resource with special techniques and procedures capable of conducting these operations in environmentally sensitive areas, and dive teams can be flown to remote locations to provide a more rapid response time than can be provided by cutters.

**Polar Icebreaker and Science Support** – Divers onboard the polar icebreakers provide damage control and repair capability in remote and harsh environments. Additionally, they conduct dive operations for maintenance, calibration and inspections of hull and running gear. This is particularly important to the Polar-class icebreakers due to the maintenance requirements of their complex variable pitch propulsion system. All polar divers provide science support by collecting biological samples and installing/retrieving scientific equipment.

***DIVER TRAINING:***

All Coast Guard divers are collateral duty volunteers who are initially trained at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City, Florida and are graduates of either the 17-week Dive Officer course or 6-

week SCUBA Diver course. Interested members typically come from junior enlisted to junior officer ranks and must pass stringent medical and physical fitness standards. Approximately 40 Coast Guard members graduate each year from the NDSTC to fill the Service's 102 collateral duty diving positions. Because of this relatively small number of positions, however, a typical diver has one diving duty assignment during his/her career.

Over the past 50 plus years of diving operations, the Coast Guard has had a nearly spotless record. Prior the HEALY incident on August 17, 2006, the last Coast Guard death associated with dive operations was on April 17, 1974. The diver, a member of the Atlantic Strike Team, died during an incident on the Great Lakes and the cause of death remains unknown.

***HEALY LESSONS LEARNED:***

The incident onboard HEALY highlighted failures at the Service, unit, and individual levels. Mishaps typically involve a chain of errors that if not broken, result in an accident, and that was true in this case.

The investigation revealed a number of major systemic issues that reduced the margin available to guard against human error. The Coast Guard dive program has expanded substantially over the past several years, yet there has not been commensurate growth in oversight and management of that program from a Service- or Headquarters perspective. This is reflected in the fact that HEALY's dive program had not been inspected for

compliance with Coast Guard dive safety standards since the ship was placed in service in 1999.

As a result of this tragedy, the Commandant has elevated management and oversight of the Coast Guard Dive Program to bring it on par with other high-risk, training-intensive Coast Guard operations. We have increased our active oversight by conducting regular, comprehensive site visits to all operational Coast Guard dive units to ensure diving gear is being properly maintained, personnel qualifications are current and standard procedures are understood and exercised. All 17 dive units have been inspected since the HEALY incident. A comprehensive review of the entire diving program is underway to determine the best way to meet the Coast Guard's requirements for diving services. Additionally, the Coast Guard Dive Manual is being revised to include comprehensive policy on cold water diving and the use of Operational Risk Management for planning and conducting Coast Guard dive operations.

Our personnel system needs the capability to track dive training and qualifications – and we need to improve our dive training program. We will ensure those assigned to diving duty receive all the training necessary to safely complete their mission and will indoctrinate command cadre and supervisory personnel by adding a training module to the Commanding Officers'



indoctrination course specifically dedicated to diving operations. These courses are being taught at our Command and Operations School at the Leadership and Development Center in New London, CT.

**ACTIONS TAKEN THUS FAR:**

In the wake of the HEALY incident, the Coast Guard has upgraded the Headquarters Diving Program Manager position from a Lieutenant to a Lieutenant Commander, and has established a senior enlisted assistant manager billet. Additionally, dive program managers have been established at Coast Guard Area and District commands responsible for dive capable units to better track the readiness, qualification, and training status of these units.

In addition, a senior level work group has been formed, including expert consultants from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and Smithsonian Institute, to evaluate the requirements, management, and policy guidance of the Coast Guard's Diving Program and recommend the way forward. Its final report is expected by June 1, 2007.

In an effort to further our understanding of how our international counterparts operate and train, a Coast Guard representative attended the International Polar Diving Workshop in Svalbard, Norway on March 15-22, 2007. This workshop is an international, interdisciplinary assessment of polar

diving operations, and served as an excellent baseline against which to measure Coast Guard polar diving policies and procedures.

Immediately following the HEALY incident, a safety inspection was conducted onboard HEALY, and the cutter's dive capabilities were suspended. We also ensured all dive capable units had undergone a Dive Program Safety survey within the previous 12 months. One unit was found to be deficient in its readiness and training and was directed to suspend dive operations. Upon correcting all discrepancies, the unit successfully completed a follow-up inspection and was authorized to resume all diving operations.

The Final Decision on the Commandant's Vessel Safety Board's report is nearly complete.

The normal time frame for completion of this type of accident investigation and report can be as much as a year or more. For HEALY, this process was accelerated and the results are expected to be released in the next several weeks.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The Coast Guard strives to minimize hazards through sound judgment, planning, and risk management. Despite the professionalism, bravery, and dedication of our workforce, in rare cases we suffer serious injury or death in the line of duty. As Coast Guard men and women we accept that risk, but we will not accept preventable loss or injury. When it comes to dangerous

operations such as diving, "good enough" is never good enough. Across the Coast Guard, we will honor LT Hill and Petty Officer Duque through the actions we are taking at all levels to prevent such a tragedy in the future.

This concludes our statement. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

### **Diving in Polluted Waters**

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



**Diving Medicine Online**  
**Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non-medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist.**

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#### **The Problem**

Over the past ten to fifteen years the diving population has become sensitized to the potentially hazardous presence of pollution in the sea. The ocean has been a traditional dumping ground for many types and degrees of pollutants. Several years ago a Los Angeles Times article indicated that 2000 U.S. beaches were closed due to sewage spills. (1993). California, as usual a leader, had 745 closures with 588 occurring in Southern California. Consistent and regular monitoring would have probably found many more contaminated beaches needing closure. There is a definite lack of any standardized program for monitoring our waterways;

particular areas of concern are harbors and similar areas which do not "flush" well, rivers, especially those with high levels of industry on the shores, sewage outfalls which go out to sea but are often overloaded and areas which have the deposits of soft, silty materials dropped as the currents reduce their velocities in dispersal areas. It has been estimated that there are on the order of 15,000 chemical spills that enter our water areas each year in the U.S. alone. The contaminated areas are growing and now include many recreational diving areas as well as scientific study sites and search and rescue operations.

The health consequences of the water pollution have not been quantified by careful study but many local health professionals are concerned with infectious and carcinogenic disease potential for patients who are ocean swimmers, lifeguards and divers. Until adequate epidemiologic data is available the recourse would appear to be logically focused upon conservative practices in selecting dive sites and conditions.

This increase in areas of pollution is a worldwide problem and has affected many diving operations. Diving in polluted water requires that certain precautions be taken, and, in some instances, the use of sophisticated equipment and procedures. Avoiding diving in areas with high potential for pollution, particularly after heavy rains is fundamental in urban or industrialized areas.

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The main problem centers around the fact that bacterial, viral and chemical hazards can affect the human body by

skin contact and entry through orifices. The following list was produced in the NOAA Manual and the details were obtained from the medical literature.

#### **Vibrio –**

34 species of this family of bacteria are known and cholera and El Tor vibriones are among those known to be pathogenic to man. Cholera vibriones have recently been found in Santa Monica Bay in California and have raised concerns although it is not known to have produced any disease. Other vibriones may be anaerobic and produce disease states such as purulent otitis, mastoiditis, and pulmonary gangrene. *V. Proteus* found in human fecal material is a common cause of diarrheal disease. *V. Vulnificus* is found in sea water.

#### **Enterobacteria**

*Escherichia* - found widely in nature, occasionally pathogenic to man, produces carotenoid pigments and can often be recognized by the orangish pus. *E. Coli*, which has some pathogenic strains is often found in fecal material: and can produce urinary tract infection and epidemic diarrheal disease.

**Shigella** - produces dysentery

**Salmonella** - 1000 serotypes, ingestion can produce gastroenteritis including food poisoning, typhoid and paratyphoid.

**Klebsiella** - can produce pneumonia, rhinitis, respiratory infection.



**Legionella**- causes Legionnaires disease and Potomac fever. Perhaps inhibited in salt water.

**Actinomycetes** - causes a "ray fungus" actinomycosis, an infectious disease in man which inflames lymph nodes, develops abscesses, can drain into the mouth causing damage to the peritoneum, liver and lungs.

**Pseudomonas**- pathogenic to man, "blue pus" formed by some pseudomonas infections. This can lead to a wide variety of infections including wound sepsis, endocarditis, pneumonia and meningitis. It is known to flourish in dark, warm, damp places, i.e., inside hoses, bladder compartments and similar places that are not cleansed after being infiltrated by contaminants.

**Viruses** - infectious agents which can result in fevers (frequently severe), mononucleosis, and a wide range of disease states.

**Parasites** - many types with all manner of effects, all bad, can be found in polluted water.

**Chemicals** - There are over 15,000 chemical spills in the U.S. waterways each year and many of these are releasing chemicals that are incompatible with man and the equipment that is worn.

### **Prevention**

As detailed information becomes available on this issue divers will become sensitized to the need for preventive measures before, during and after diving. At present the scientific and public safety diving communities are

developing techniques for isolating the diver from the potential problems and decontaminating all exposed elements of the diving equipment. It appears eminent that the recreational community will feel the need to exert greater care in the future.

It is becoming increasingly important to develop an understanding of the variations in the local conditions to which individuals expose themselves. Some areas become particularly hazardous following heavy rains, hot weather and windstorms. Local health authorities can usually be called for advice regarding any tests that have been performed and the results. They should also be able to identify areas of high concentrations of pollutants that should be avoided.

When diving in areas where pollution is suspected or expected the following issues are worthy of evaluation.

**1.** The individual diver should consider the need for appropriate vaccinations and inoculations. Many of the diseases can be avoided if the individual has taken the appropriate "shots". A few that appear worthy of consideration:

- Hepatitis A and B
- Cholera
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Typhoid
- Smallpox

➤ Diphtheria

2. Pollution and filth are often associated. If the water contains obvious trash and garbage it is quite probably an unhealthy diving environment and another location should be selected. If the water looks nasty it probably is nasty!!

3. Many diseases have an incubation period before they exhibit symptoms. Medical advice is as close as the phone and early diagnosis and treatment can sometimes be improved if the Doctor understands that an individual may have been submerged in polluted water.

4. Information on chemical spills can be obtained from the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (1 800 424 9300 US).

5. **"When in doubt- Check about"** A basic procedure if one feels they must dive in

## The 'Blue Serge Suit'

<http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk/web/crime-museum-uk/episode-guide/murder-in-lovers-lane/>

There was alarm amongst Scotland Yard detectives after Ruby Keen's body was found in lovers' lane. Police began receiving the description of a young man, dressed in what looked like a policeman's uniform, flirting with Ruby on the night of her death.

Ruby was familiar with the police force and had dated a few officers and in fact, her fiancé was a policeman. Her relationships were questioned.

When another suspect, Leslie Stone, was questioned he admitted owning a blue serge suit that was very similar to the police uniforms.

When his suit was examined it was found that though brand new, the knees had been brushed so hard that the nap had almost worn away. Embedded in the lining was a single inch long silky thread that matched the undergarment Ruby had been wearing at the time of her murder.

At first Stone denied the murder, but in the witness box changed his story, saying that an argument had got out of hand, but that he'd had no idea that Ruby had died. This didn't wash with the jury however, and he was found guilty of her murder and hanged.

**A single piece of thread was the proof that solved a murder. Would your recovery processes have protected this evidence?**

high risk water involves reducing the exposure of the diver. NOAA has pioneered a sophisticated SOS (suit over suit) system that will virtually isolate the diver from any contact with the water. This system is somewhat complex inasmuch as it requires complete system integrity from the times the diver dresses out until the system has been decontaminated following the dive. Strict procedures are followed to ensure that the divers' body does not contact the fluid in which it is immersed.

Previously, many public safety divers wore a single dry suit and a full face mask during their dives. However, Stephen Barsky now states that "Full-face masks only provide minimal protection and should only be used in environments where the pollutants are known, and do not pose a threat of death or permanent disability. In environments

where the pollutants are not known, or where they lead to death or permanent disability, a helmet should be worn connected to a mating dry suit with mating dry gloves. This is considered the standard today." (See Reference below)

If good seals are involved and the diver is effectively rinsed, scrubbed down and rinsed again prior to breaking any existing seals, the probability of exposure to the pollutants can be minimized. Special care must be taken to clear hoses and fittings that interface with the life support system. A failure to rinse bladders and hoses which may later be linked to the diver's mouth or lungs could provide a path to the host days after the dive. The use of snorkels, alternate air sources, oral inflation devices and hose connections should all be given careful attention since the can carry contaminants directly into the mouth. Positive pressure, "self bailing" breathing systems have definite advantages in that they resist flooding.

**EVIDENCE**  
**TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE**

**March-April 2009 Issue**  
**Now Available Online**

**Topics Include:**  
Forensic Entomology  
Crime Scene Vehicles  
Storing and Securing Non-DNA Evidence  
DNA Analysis

Recreational divers maybe well advised to place their regulator in their mouth and their mask over their nose before entering suspect water and keeping it there until they have safely exited

the water where they can remove the regulator without needing to replace it.

Polluted water is a fact of our lives. The degree of pollution can only be mitigated through education and the "upstream" elimination of the sources of the contaminants. The attitude that careful rinsing of diving gear is a waste of time "cuz its just going to get wet again next time it is used" should probably be replaced with the attitude that one should begin every dive with clean gear.

---

### **LINKS To Pollutant Testing**

Utah Bureau of Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology  
<http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/els/chemistry/>

Adapted from Glen Egstrom, Ph.D  
Medical Seminars, Inc. 1992

Other References:

Colwell, et.al. Microbial Hazards Of  
Diving In Polluted Waters, Maryland Sea Grant  
Publication UM-SG-TS-82-01.

Diving in High-Risk Environments, 3rd Edition  
by Steven M. Barsky

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

Paperback - 197 pages 3rd edition (December 15, 1999)  
Hammerhead Press; ISBN: 0967430518



## EVENTS



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

LEWIS COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

2009 Washington State Search & Rescue Conference

### Offshore Technology Conference

May 5 – 8, 2009

Houston, TX

[www.otcnet.org/2009](http://www.otcnet.org/2009)

### 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/>



Florida SWAT Association  
Annual Tactical Operations Conference  
Jun 1-4

<http://www.floridaswat.org/conference/>

### 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>

## EnergyOcean 2009

June 16 – 18, 2009

Rockport, Maine – Samoset Resort

[www.energyocean.com/2009](http://www.energyocean.com/2009)

## 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/>



### 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>

# PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education

## PSDM-CE-60

### Contaminated Water Diving

- 1) Contaminated water diving is not as big of a concern as polluted water.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
- 2) Which of the following is not considered a water contaminant?
  - a. Hydrilla
  - b. Shigella
  - c. Coli
  - d. Parasites
  
- 3) Divers should consider vaccination in the following:
  - a. Hepatitis A & B
  - b. Cholera, Polio
  - c. Tetanus, Typhoid
  - d. Smallpox, Diphtheria
  - e. All of the above

- 4) If the water looks nasty, then it probably is.
- True
  - False
- 5) Post dive de-con includes \_\_\_\_\_ before breaking any seals:
- Rinse, Scrub, Rinse
  - Wash, Rinse
  - Flush, Rinse, Scrub
  - Determine the contaminant and apply the decon solution
- 6) Full face masks provide the best contaminant barrier.
- True
  - False
- 7) Many diseases have an incubation period. It is not necessary to decon immediately after a dive as there is time to clean the diver before the contaminant activates itself.
- True
  - False
- 8) Decon includes the following items:
- Regs, hoses, suits, masks
  - Masks, regs
  - Masks, suits
  - Hoses, suits
- 9) All dive suits afford good barrier against contaminated water diving.
- True
  - False
- 10) Contamination contact occurs thru.
- Ingestion
  - Inhalation
  - Absorption
  - All of the above
- 11) There are \_\_\_\_\_ groups of contaminants for water.
- 9
  - 10
  - 6
  - 4
- 12) Pertaining to diving in contaminated water SOS stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Standard emergency signal
  - Salt over saline
  - Suit over suit
  - Same old stuff

## TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- 1) Lacking a consensus standard for Public Safety Diving, what standards could you or should you use specifically for contaminated diving?
- 2) ( Can HIV be transmitted by contact with bloody water? *Regardless of you initial answer, use this as homework and find documentation that supports your answer. That material should be included in your team training books.*
- 3) One of your divers gets sick the day after a dive. Symptoms include fever and spewing at both ends. The diver has to seek medical help and misses two days of work. The doctor decides the diver picked up a "bug" while diving and prescribed rest and antibiotics. Under your policies, does this diver qualify for compensation for a work related injury? Will his sick leave be charged? *If this is not absolutely KNOWN, research with your administration or Human Resources – find a definitive answer. DOCUMENT all correspondence and meetings.*
- 4) What vaccinations are your team members required to have? What is available to you that you do not already have. Which team members do not have current vaccinations? *This information should be included in team records and tracked.*
- 5) What chemicals are your team members MOST likely to be exposed to while diving in you local waters?

6) What decontamination procedures do you have in place for your divers? When was the last time you included decontamination practices in your training?

**Chemical spill information can be obtained by calling 1-800-424-9300. Is this number in your phone list?**



**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](mailto:PSDiverMonthly@aol.com)**

	<p><b>ERDI</b> Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.</p>
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## With Age Comes Wisdom

The old man is 80 years old and loves to fish and play golf.

He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up.'

He looked around and couldn't see any one. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again,



'Pick me up.' He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, 'Are you talking to me?'

The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up.'

Then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen.

I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front breast pocket.

Then the frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride.'

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said,

'Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog.'





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