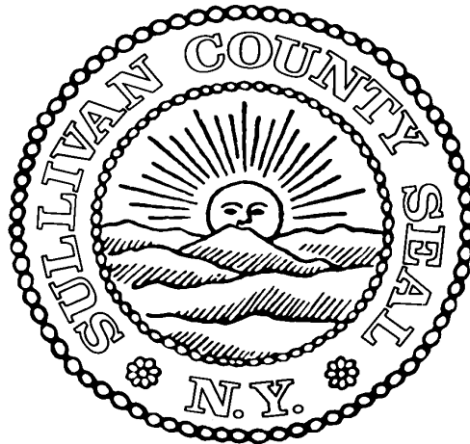




Sullivan County

Dive Team Policy



Sullivan County Dive Team

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1) INTRODUCTION

A) Mission Statement

The Sullivan County Dive Team is a specialty operation of the said organization “Sullivan County Bureau of Fire” The intent is to provide emergency dive services for the Sullivan County community and to provide mutual aid to other organizations needing such services.

B) Dive Team conditions

It will be the intent of the Sullivan County Dive Team to follow these general operating guidelines during training and/or any emergency water responses called upon to render aid. These guidelines are to be used by the officers and all members of the team. These are simply guidelines and not step-by-step methods. Under emergency conditions, they may be altered as deemed necessary by the officer in charge. These procedures will not limit the team or its officers to certain methods or task. If any amendment is made during operations immediate notification must be made to the Deputy Fire Coordinator and Incident Commander. It is also to the knowledge of the Sullivan County Dive Team that there are some national, federal and local entities that have regulations, guidelines and standards concerning diving. It is the intent of the team to honor these regulations and guidelines to the best of their ability.

2) Definitions

A) Dive Team

- 1) Consists of divers certified by a nationally recognized dive agency eg: NAUI (*National Association of Underwater Instructors*), PADI (*Professional Association of Underwater Instructors*) and surface personnel have acquired additional training set forth in this document to perform dive operations.

B) Diver

- 1) Person working in the water using self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA)

C) Team Officers

- 1) Shall be a qualified member of the team and should attend training regularly, be actively striving towards or hold the highest certification required.

D) Open Water Diver

- 1) A recognized entry-level certification of scuba diving from any nationally recognized

agency.

E) Advanced Open Water Diver

- 1) Any upper level diver program above entry-level diver that is offered by a nationally recognized agency.

F) Public Safety Diver

- 1) A diving certification that reflects NFPA 1670 technical rescue standard technician level program.

G) Support Personnel

Any non dive member who assists the team and/or divers should work at the level of their training.

3) Personnel Requirements for Divers

A) Applicants

- 1) Anyone wanting to apply to the Sullivan County Dive Team must be eighteen (18) years of age, be a member in good standing of a Sullivan County Fire Dept. and complete an application for Special Operations for the Bureau of Fire.
- 2) Probation Status: will be a six-month period. During this period they must attend as many team drills as possible.

During this probationary period they must obtain check offs on the basic skills as outlined in this policy.

- a) Once on probation, duties can only be performed under supervision of an officer or their designee.
 - b) No probationary member shall enter the water unless directed by an officer or their designee.
 - c) No probationary member of the Dive Team can be an officer.
- B) All team members will maintain a working knowledge of the diving equipment that is currently in service. They will also be aware of each piece of equipment's purpose and use, so that it may be used safely.

C) In addition to the previous mentioned qualifications all divers must be checked off in the following areas before allowed to dive under these conditions:

- 1) Underwater Search Patterns
- 2) Night Diving
- 3) Black Water Diving
- 4) Line Tended Diving
- 5) Current Diving
- 6) Boat Diving
- 7) Overhead Environments
- 8) Crime Scene Preservation and Documentation
- 9) Recovery Procedures
- 10) Dry Suit Diving
- 11) Full Face Mask Diving

D) Additional training that is desired:

- 1) Natural and Compass Navigation
- 2) CPR
- 3) Basic First Aid Procedures (including first aid for diving related injuries and illnesses)
- 4) Basic Knots and Mechanical Advantage Systems
- 5) Entanglement Procedures
- 6) Equipment Maintenance
- 7) Air Fill Station Methods

E) All divers will complete an annual Fire Department interior firefighter OSHA physical, minus the fit test.

F) All team members must maintain active membership with in a Sullivan County Fire Department.

G) At no time shall a member release any information to the public (including media) about dive team operations without consent from the Incident Commander of jurisdiction.

H) Dismissal Procedures

- 1) If any member is found to be conducting themselves in a manner that is detrimental to the team, then an evaluation will be made by the Dive Captain. Upon this evaluation a written warning may be placed in said person's personnel file. If repeated measures of detrimental actions continue to occur then the said diver may be dismissed from the Dive Team.
- 2) If a member is unable to meet the training requirements and is non-proactive in trying to maintain their diving proficiency then, upon review by the Dive Team Captain, they may

be placed in an inactive state or dismissed from the Dive Team. All efforts will be made to encourage any persons in this position to get the required training to maintain their active status.

- 3) If a member is no longer in good standing in a Sullivan County Fire Department, Chief must notify the Dive Team in writing that that member is not in good standing or has been dismissed from the department.
- 4) The Sullivan County Dive Team will notify the Chief in writing upon any dismissals

4) Personnel Requirements for Surface Support

- A) Applicants for surface support operations will fall under the same guidelines as diving applicants minus the actual diving requirements and an interior OSHA physical.
- B) Surface support personnel must attend training exercises to obtain knowledge of diving operations and equipment. Those who train with the team will be given priority over those who do not when an incident occurs and will be asked to accompany the team.
- C) Surface support functions include, but are not limited to:
 1. Communication operation
 2. Line attendants / Rope mechanics
 3. Boat operations
 4. Rehab/Manpower
 5. Equipment transport and preparation
 6. Crowd and traffic control
 7. Equipment repair

5) Organizational Structure

- A. Overall supervision of this team falls under the authority and direction of the Sullivan County Fire Coordinator. The following organizational structure is for the internal operations of the dive team. Maintaining the integrity of this structure is critical for the safety and health of dive team members during training and operations. It also provides a vital link in the command structure of this team.
- B. The Deputy Fire Coordinator is responsible to assist the Incident Commander with coordination of mutual aid, staging and all aspects of liaison for all resources and agencies at the incident. In the absence of the Team Captain and or Lieutenant/s the person with the highest qualifications on scene will be appoint as the water operations officer for that incident.

C. Team Captain

- 1) The Sullivan County Fire Coordinator appoints this position, based on the recommendations of the Dive Team. This person is responsible for Captain's duties within the operations division. Duties in operations division are but not limited too.
 - a) Coordination of training activities. All training activities shall be coordinated through the team's Lieutenant for documentation.
 - b) Incident operations will be the sole responsibility of the Incident Commander in charge (Fire Chief of Jurisdiction) and /or the Incident Commander of the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.
 - c) The Captain is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the dive team within the command structure of section b (above)
 - d) Act as liaison between the Sullivan County Dive Team and the Sullivan County Fire Coordinator.

D. Team Lieutenant /s

- 1) The Fire Coordinator appoints this position, based on the recommendations of the Dive Team. The Lieutenant is the second level of command of the dive team. The Lieutenant automatically assumes the duties of the team Captain if absent.
- 2) Assist the Captain in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Maintain the appropriate membership list, personnel files, training records and call documentation for the **annual** submittal to the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire.

6) Response Guidelines

- 1) Individual Team Members will be notified of a call (dive) by a special ops tone on their pager. If they are able to respond they must call in using the "**I Am Responding**" phone program. **DO NOT CALL IN TO 53 CRONTROL.**
- 2) All members must notify their Chief when responding to a call for the Dive Team.

7) General Operation Guidelines

- A) The Sullivan County Mutual Aid Plan will be followed
- B) The team shall at all times to the best of its ability operate and follow the NFPA 1670 standard.
- C) The Sullivan County Dive Team will operate under the National Informational Management System (NIMS) at all times.