

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

DIVE TEAM FUNCTION

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 3.2.19

Effective Date : 02/25/2010	Accreditation Standards: CALEA CFA	Review Date: 06/01/2012
---------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

CONTENTS

1. Responsibility of the Dive Team
2. Procedures
3. General Procedures
4. Reports
5. Training Requirements for the Dive Team
6. Equipment Used In Dive Team Response

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the use of the Department's Dive Team.

SCOPE: This policy and procedure applies to members and supervisors of the Department's Dive Team.

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY: Chief of Police designee

POLICY: The primary responsibility of the Dive Team is to provide expert diving support for law enforcement search and recovery functions and underwater crime scene processing.

1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DIVE TEAM

- a. It is the responsibility of the Dive Team to provide search and recovery capability to the Operations Bureau. The Dive Team shall be under the control of designated supervisor who shall coordinate all training and other activities regarding their use and deployment. Duties of the Dive Team shall include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Underwater crime scene investigation.
 - ii. Recovery of drowning victims.
 - iii. Search and recovery of criminal evidence.
 - iv. Recovery and salvage of various types of property and vehicles involved in accidental mishap or loss (e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, boats and airplanes.)
 - v. Limited underwater crime scene processing.

2. PROCEDURES

- a. When a first responding officer arrives at the scene of a drowning, submerged vehicle, or other situations potentially requiring the services of divers, the officer shall:
 - i. Request communications to notify and/or initiate necessary call out to the Dive Team supervisor or his designee.
 - ii. Secure the area and maintain crowd control.
 - iii. Have witnesses available for interview upon arrival of divers.
 - iv. In case of a drowning, notify the next of kin as per procedure.
 - v. Initiate an incident report.

3. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- a. The decision to deploy divers is the responsibility of the Dive Team supervisor.
- b. A minimum of two (2) divers shall respond to requests for diver services. If a situation necessitates additional diving equipment or personnel, it shall be the responsibility of the senior diver at the scene to notify communications for the callout of divers.
 - i. Routine Responses
 - 1. Routine calls shall be attended to by available on-duty divers.
 - 2. If no on-duty diver is available, the scheduled call-out list of divers shall be utilized.
 - ii. Exceptional Incidents
 - 1. When an exceptional or unusual incident occurs (e.g., plane crashes in water, explosives in the water, or extended underwater searches or investigations), the Dive Team leader shall be informed of the situation.
 - 2. The Dive Team leader shall assume responsibility and coordinate the recovery activities with the Patrol Division supervisor.
- c. Other requests for divers, which do not necessitate immediate attention (such as extended evidence searches, scheduled dives regarding future dates and time, or any off-duty requests), shall be requested through the chain of command and shall be coordinated with the Patrol Division supervisor.

4. REPORTS

- a. Following any incident in which the Dive Team is utilized, the senior diver at the scene shall prepare and submit to the Patrol Division commander via the Dive Team supervisor a detailed report which may include the:
 - i. Diagram of the incident scene.
 - ii. Photographs of the scene, if available.
 - iii. Critique of operational tactics.
 - iv. Any suggestions for correction of operational errors or procedural deficiencies.
- b. The supervisor/senior diver and all other divers at the scene shall initiate a supplement report if assisting in a departmental investigation.
- c. The supervisor/senior diver at the scene shall originate an incident report if assisting another agency.

5. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR DIVE TEAM

- a. Members of the department's Dive Team shall be trained to meet the following standards and maintenance of certification.
 - i. Must be certified through a nationally recognized organization (e.g., American Red Cross);
 - ii. Should have at least basic open water certification;
 - iii. Maintain a current log book;
 - iv. Must have and/or maintain at least one (1) officer as a certified instructor; and
 - v. There should be at least six (6) training sessions a year covering search and recovery operations.

6. EQUIPMENT USED IN DIVE TEAM RESPONSE

- a. The following equipment will be used in varied situations responded to by the Dive Team to include, but not limited to the following:
 - i. Buoyance compensator
 - ii. Mask
 - iii. Fins
 - iv. Snorkel
 - v. Wet suit, including boots and hoods
 - vi. Two stage regulator

- vii. Octopus
- viii. S.P.G. gauge
- ix. Search line
- x. Dive knife
- xi. Dive light
- xii. Weight belt
- xiii. Meter detector
- xiv. Lift bags
- xv. Body bags
- xvi. First aid kit
- b. Individual officers shall be responsible for the maintenance and care off all underwater equipment issued by the Department.
- c. Records of Dive Team training will be kept current by the instructor/supervisor in charge of this unit and copies of all member qualifications and training will be maintained in the department Training Section.
- d. A current list of Dive Team members and callout numbers will be updated routinely by the instructor/supervisor and provided to communications and other designated divisions/sections that shall benefit.
- e. Members of this unit will wear the approved department insignia to display their membership to such team.


INDEX AS:

- DIVE TEAM

RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

- SPECIAL OPERATIONS
- DIVE TEAM SUPERVISOR
- UNIFORM OPERATIONS

DRAFTED: SDD / 06-19-09 FILED: 3.2.19.pdf

APPROVED:	
	
<hr/>	<u>02/25/2010</u>
Stephen J. Stepp	Date
Chief of Police	