
Special Response Diver

Underwater search and recovery training with certification through the National Academy of Police Diving. Topics include search patterns, vehicle recovery, body recovery, limited visibility operations and underwater crime scene investigation

Instructors: Capt. Michael Gast, Lt. Joel Talley

Course Length: 1 week, 48 hours

Prerequisites: Advanced Open Water

Required Tools/Materials: Mask, fins, snorkel, wetsuit, gloves, dive boots, dive knife, dive light, underwater watch, dive light, dive weights, buoyancy compensator, SCUBA regulator, gear bag

Instructional Methods: Lesson material will be imparted via lectures, videos and photographs, demonstrations, and reading assignments. Students will practice skills during supervised confined water and open water dive sessions.

Method of Evaluation: Student progress will be based on homework assignments, practical skills, quizzes, and written exams. The final exam will constitute the course grade.

Pass Requirements: Completion of all assignments, quizzes, and the final exam, and a demonstrated ability to perform all practical skills.

Course Components:

Hours	Subject
1	Introduction to underwater search and recovery: Course overview
3	Search patterns: The seven standard search patterns
6	Skill development—open water session: Compass navigation, search patterns, the cycle of stress, fear, and panic
2	Underwater investigation: Scene control & evaluation, choice of pattern, visibility, references, systems for search & recovery operations
2	Underwater investigation: Interviews, scene control & evaluation, submerged scene preservation, documentation & safety (including ValuJet Flight 592)
6	Skill development—open water session: Lost object scenarios. Each team will be evaluated on interviewing, scene control, search pattern selection, successful completion of objective, post-incident reporting and documentation
3	Recovery: Sinking characteristics & recovery of vehicles, safety, lifting points, technique, public awareness programs
6	Skill development—open water session: Vehicle search in low visibility, vehicle recovery
6	Skill development—open water session: Vehicle search in black water, advanced vehicle recovery techniques
1	Underwater recovery: Body recovery procedures, physics and operation of lift bags, atmospheric, absolute & gauge pressure, lift bag theory
3	Skill development: Lifting techniques, lift bag operations, safety, and maintenance
1	Final exam: Final written exam, presentation of certificates