



Search & Recovery Lecture 3



Safety



We Will Cover

- Introduction
- Site assessment
- Stress
- Thermal stress
- Safety equipment
- Health considerations
- Standby diver
- Special situations





Introduction

- Safety of S&R team is No. 1 priority
- Ultimate responsibility lies with DO
- Safety Statement
- Risk Assessment



Site Assessment

- Currents / tides / weather
- Depth / water quality / visibility
- Underwater obstructions / hazards
- Access / exit points
- Boat traffic
- Equipment
- Night diving





Stress

- From cold/poor visibility/anxiety/fear
- Stop – think – control breathing - act

Stress Reduction

- Training (simulations)
- Experience / Fitness
- Good equipment
- Mental preparation



Thermal Stress

- Hypothermia
 - Reduces physical / mental efficiency
 - Predisposes to DCI
 - Use dry-suit
- Hyperthermia
 - Long time kitted up on surface / dry-suit / full face mask
 - Fluid loss (dehydration) / heat exhaustion
 - + 4 degrees C in core can lead to convulsions



Safety Equipment

- Emergency plan
- VHF radio
- First aid
- Oxygen
- Spare breathing gas on site
- All in perfect working order
- Manufacturer's certification





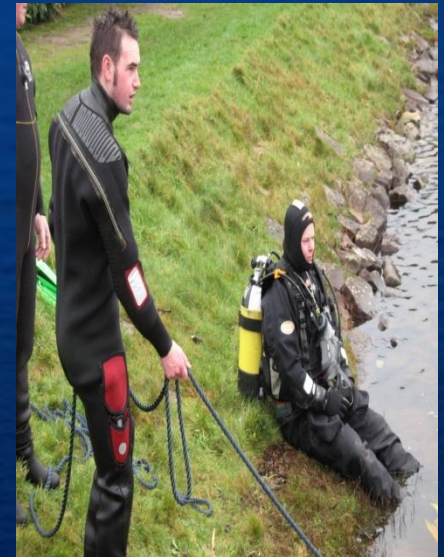
Health Considerations

- Follow CFT medical recommendations
- In-date medical or certificate
- Personal hygiene – shower after dive
- Decontaminate all equipment after dive (hosing/ disinfectant)
- Regulators to be kept on neck bungies
- Vaccinations- follow medical comm advice



Standby Diver

- Experienced as a roped diver in low vis.
- Aware of what can go wrong
- Ability to deal with emergencies
- Fully equipped / ready to enter water
- Search diver dives when standby ready
- Spare gas in event of trapped diver





Special Situations

- May have to deviate from CFT's R&R
- May be safer to dive alone in zero visibility (avoids getting in each others' way)
- Still has a buddy (rope / comms. at surface)
- BCD may be ditched in confined spaces to reduce the risk of snagging



Summary

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- Health considerations
- Standby diver
- Special situations