



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 233

GENERAL ORDERS

DIVE TEAM

PURPOSE:

This policy establishes general procedures for handling water related incidents and problems, such as:

- Possible drowning (other than a pool)
- Submerged vehicle
- Missing boat / boaters
- Swift water rescues
- Evidence recovery
- Use of Dive Team

In all situations, the burden of responsibility lies with the field commander to exercise prudent judgment in dealing with hazards to human life.

DIVE TEAM:

The Sheriff's Office maintains a specialized team of trained personnel who, in addition to other duties, are responsible for responding to previously mentioned incidents.

DIVE TEAM RESPONSE:

A timely response is crucial when a victim is submerged. Upon receipt of such a call-for-service, the Dive Team will be notified immediately. All team members are to respond in **EMERGENCY MODE** unless notified or directed by the Dive Team Commander, or designee, of alternative response. On arrival, Dive Team Members will deploy expeditiously according to safety guidelines.

TEAM MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA:

Deputies assigned to the Dive Team are selected using the following criteria:

DIVER:

1. Team membership is voluntary.
2. Performance ratings while in field assignment.
3. Demonstrated ability to perform in disciplined manner while under stress.
4. Possession of necessary certifications (obtain required certifications within specified time period).

GROUND CREW:

1. Team membership is voluntary.
2. Performance ratings while in field assignment
3. Demonstrated ability to perform in disciplined manner while under stress.

All selections will be forwarded to the Dive Team Commander with final approval made by the Sheriff.

Once selected, all members will be placed on six (6) month probationary status. All divers must maintain certifications and training required to keep certifications current.

TRAINING:

Training for Dive Team members is conducted monthly. The training is designed to maintain the unit in a state of maximum operational effectiveness.

EQUIPMENT:

Dive Team members are supplied with the necessary special equipment to fulfill their mission. The Dive Team Commander maintains an inventory of equipment, both personal and issued, used by members during operations. In some cases (for budgetary and other reasons) personal equipment is used as primary operational equipment by members. Prior to use, all equipment will be inspected by the Dive Team Commander, or designee, to ensure the equipment meets minimum standards for the mission.

**DIVE TEAM
ACTIVATION:**

The Dive Team's basic operational objective is the preservation of human life. A quick response is imperative to life saving measures. This involves getting team members to the scene as quickly as possible. When Communications receives a call in reference to a water related incident or emergency, a deputy is to be dispatched immediately (any dive team member on duty is also to be dispatched). As this is completed, the Dive Team Commander will be notified and briefed of the situation (DO NOT WAIT UNTIL DEPUTY ARRIVES TO ASSESS THE SITUATION). The Dive Team Commander, or designee, will coordinate team activation and response.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff