

Reports

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Dive Emergency Plan

Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

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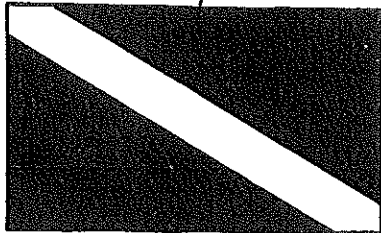


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DIVE EMERGENCY PLAN

WHEN A RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER IS NEEDED IN THE EVENT OF A KNOWN OR SUSPECTED DIVING ACCIDENT DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.** Call the Duty Officer at the Norfolk Navy Base (804) 444-7097/7098 and do the following:
 - (a) tell him there is a diving emergency
 - (b) tell him who you are and give your phone number
 - (c) have him contact the recompression Duty Medical Officer
 - (d) have him clear the ambulance thru gates at Navy Base
 - (e) find out what vessel has recompression chamber duty, and get that telephone number
 - (f) tell the Duty Officer and the vessel when the ambulance will arrive

- 2.** Dial "O" for operator. Have her connect you with an emergency ambulance service and do the following:
 - (a) tell them the nature of the injury
 - (b) who you are
 - (c) location and direction to the injured
 - (d) your telephone number
 - (e) explain that the ambulance must take the injured to the vessel that has the recompression chamber duty
 - (f) determine length of time until help arrives and how long it will take to get to the Navy Base
 - (g) insure that the ambulance brings oxygen

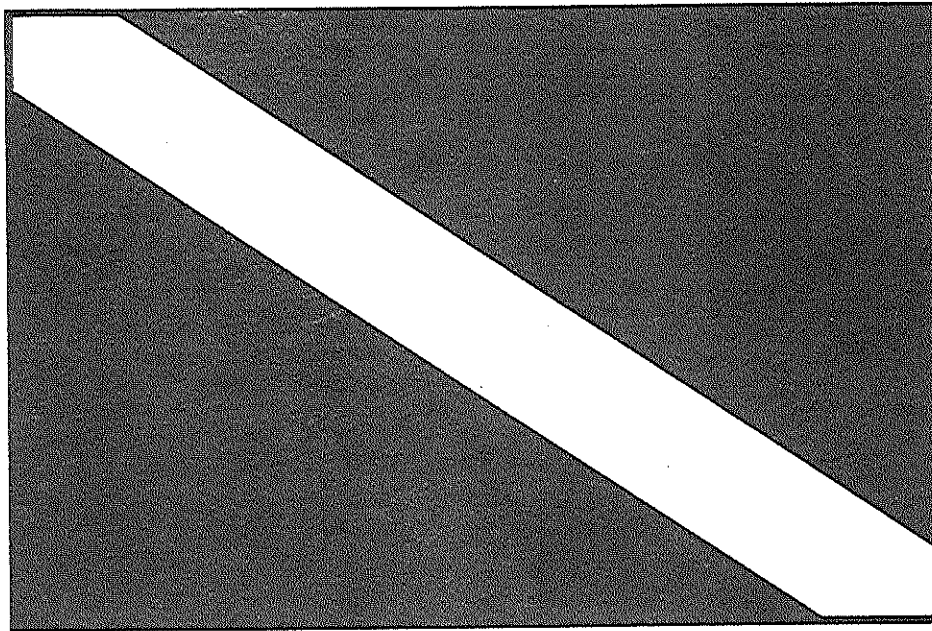
- 3.** Call the vessel which has recompression chamber duty and insure they are getting ready for the injured. Remember 10% DON'T GET THE WORD.

- 4.** If the above numbers fail to bring results call one of the following:

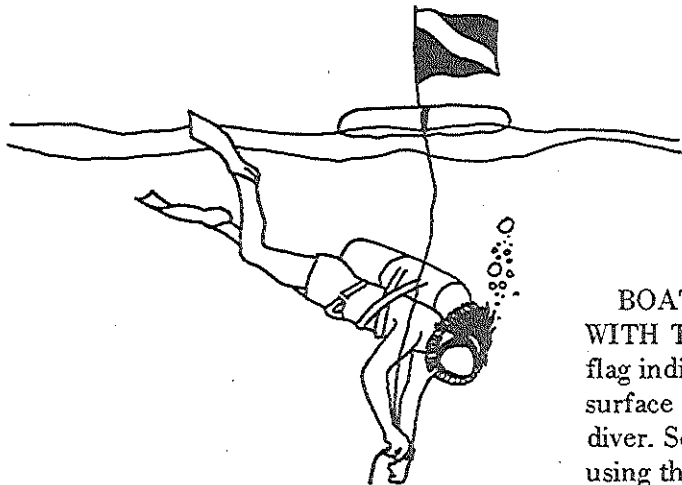
SUBLANT MEDICAL CENTER	(804) 444-6885/6886
USS L. Y. SPEAR	(804) 444-4800/1255
HC U2	(804) 464-7404/7433
USS EMORY LAND	(804) 444-3440

- 5.** As a last resort call the Diving Alert Network (919) 684-8111. Tell them the nature of the injury and they will give you instructions. This 24-hour number can be CALLED COLLECT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

**This 'DIVER DOWN' flag
displayed on a float or boat
means a diver is submerged in the vicinity .**

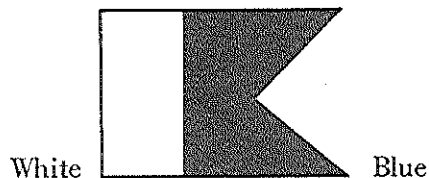


**DO NOT APPROACH THE FLAG.
STAY CLEAR AT LEAST 100 FEET.**



BOATERS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE "DIVER DOWN" FLAG. This flag indicates a diver is below the immediate surface area. Propellers can seriously injure a diver. Sometimes the diver is at fault for not using the flag, but boaters still must be able to identify the flag by sight. Be careful when approaching the red and white "diver down" flag.

1. Do not approach out of curiosity.
2. On inside waters maintain at least 100 feet distance from the flag. In bays and open waters, maintain a distance of at least 300 feet from flag.
3. Keep a sharp lookout for air bubbles near the boat. The diver may have strayed from the safe area of the flag.



THIS BLUE AND WHITE INTERNATIONAL CODE FLAG is displayed by all vessels and divers in international and foreign waters and by the United States Navy. It means "I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed."

IF A DIVING ACCIDENT OCCURS, especially one involving decompression problems (the bends), contact the Diving Accident Network at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. The Center's 24-hour hot-line number is 919/684-8111. CALL COLLECT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. An on-call physician will be able to advise you on treatment procedures and the location of the nearest hyperbaric chamber.

This poster was produced as a Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, School of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary.