



Underwater Crime Scene Tech II

Course Objectives

Underwater Crime Scene Tech II is Dive Rescue International's renowned three day (24 hour) training program for law enforcement divers and dive rescue teams involved in evidence recovery. The program is built upon the student's previous training in actual police investigations and advanced diving skills. The Underwater Crime Scene Technician II is the key person at the underwater crime scene. Students will learn how to deal with crime scenes and the difficult task of evidence documentation, preservation and processing. The student will improve skills in cooperative investigations with detectives. This program introduces students to advanced search patterns, evidence collection, crime scene equipment, photography and scene management. This program is presented in the classroom, laboratory, pool and open-water to allow students to become familiar with the techniques prior to field scenarios. Successful completion of this program is measured in class participation and an end of program comprehensive test.

Key training topics and the associated objectives include:

CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

- Identify the three major points of view an underwater crime scene photographer must capture
- Understand the best photography techniques to use in limited visibility water
- Define the proper way of documenting a crime scene with photography
- Name the three key pieces of information contained in a photographic record
- Understand the legal admissibility and credibility of crime scene photographs
- Identify when to use still photography vs. video

CRIME SCENE PROCESSING

- Define the skill requirements of an underwater crime scene technician that will insure effective crime scene processing
- Describe fingerprint processing including the use of small particle reagent and superglue fuming
- Explain blood processing including: the advantages, technique, and challenges of using Phenolphthalein or Luminol
- Identify the proper packaging procedures of evidence
- Understand how to collect insects on a recovered body, the importance of using canines at the crime scene, and the use of sonar

SKETCHING

- Discuss the proper landmarks to include in crime scene sketches and the use of a direction key
- Define triangulation and rectangular measurements and in what scenario each must be used
- Identify the key points in documenting a submerged vehicle
- Describe the use of grids and metal detectors for evidence identification and collection
- Firearm Evidence
- State the general rules for handling firearm evidence
- Identify the key elements to look for on a recovered firearm and what to record
- List the proper techniques for field processing of firearms for ballistics and fingerprints



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TRACE EVIDENCE

- Name common types of trace evidence that may be found at a crime scene
- Describe in detail how to collect trace evidence including within a submerged vehicle
- Identify control samples that can be used to represent the source of evidence
- Define possible sources of DNA and where they can be located at a crime scene or on a victim
- Explain the processing of DNA evidence

VEHICLE PROCESSING

- Define the general sections of a submerged vehicle and list the other areas with the highest priority in processing a vehicle
- Discuss where control samples of carpet, upholstery, and paint should be taken from
- List the primary areas where fingerprints may be lifted from a submerged vehicle
- Describe vehicle recovery including stability and lifting operations
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PREREQUISITES

Students must:

- Be a member of a law enforcement agency
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Provide openwater certification
- Provide Underwater Crime Scene Tech 1 or Dive Rescue 1 certification
- Provide Underwater Investigator certification. This is available as a correspondence course through Dive Rescue International.
- All students must read and complete a RSTC medical statement prior to attending class. Any diver answering yes to any contraindication must have the form signed by a physician.

This program is designed for personnel who are physically fit. Participants are encouraged to participate after successfully completing the IADRS Watermanship Test or testing to a fitness level of 13 MET (Metabolic Equivalents) or greater. Participants with aerobic fitness questions or concerns should consult their physician prior to in-water training. Participants who have poor aerobic fitness may attend this program as surface support personnel with the approval of the instructor.

BE SURE TO BRING

All students must bring: US Coast Guard approved PFD with knife and whistle, adequate clothing and protection from the environment and pen and paper for note-taking and sketching. Diving students must provide their own equipment: Scuba regulator: recently serviced and environmentally protected with alternate air source (i.e.: octopus, Air II, etc.), timing device, depth and submersible pressure gauges, BC with oral/power inflator, two tanks with current Hydro & VIP, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt and two cutting tools (knife, wire cutters, or trauma shears.)



Underwater Crime Scene Tech II Schedule

DAY 1

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration, introductions, and course review
9:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Classroom/Lab Work
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Land-Based Exercises/Team Assignments

DAY 2

8:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Classroom/Lab Work
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Pool Exercises/Equipment Orientation

DAY 3

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Field Scenarios
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Classroom/Lab Work
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Review, Final Exam and Closing