Ice Diving Operations
Course Objectives

Ice Diving Operations is Dive Rescue International's renowned three day (24 hour) training program for certified divers and surface support personnel.

Participants will be able to plan and execute an emergency ice diving operation; select, evaluate and perform field maintenance on ice diving equipment; and dive safely under ice in order to complete a rescue/recovery mission. Participants will also be introduced to diving with full face masks. Successful completion of this program is measured in class participation, passing a final written exam and completing in-water skills.

Key training topics and the associated objectives include:

ICE DIVING EQUIPMENT

- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of wearing full face masks
- Explain the precautions taken with air delivery systems, how to prevent regulator freeze-ups, and discuss alternate air sources
- List mandatory and optional diver instrumentation and the precautions used
- Describe the use of the following: buoyancy compensator, wet suit, dry suit
- Identify the different types of suit accessories as well as personal cold water protection items
- List required dive team equipment

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING OF AN ICE DIVE

- Describe the personnel required at an ice dive and their respective duties
- Discuss the optimal characteristics for a training site selection
- List and define the different factors to consider for ice safety
- Describe the diver safety line, caring for the line, and the different ways to secure it
- Discuss safety line attachment to the diver and line signals used
- Define the different search patterns

DIVE OPERATIONS

- Explain the importance of pre-dive briefings
- Discuss the different types of possible under ice emergencies and protocols used in such emergencies
- Describe under what conditions an ice dive should be terminated and how to secure an ice entry hole
- List examples of advanced ice diving equipment

RAPID FIELD NEUROLOGICAL EXAM

- Explain the purpose of the Rapid Field Neurological Exam and when it should be performed
- Discuss the importance of symmetry and documentation

Ice Diving Operations Schedule

DAY 1

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration, Introductions, and Course Review
8:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Classroom
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Pool Exercises
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Equipment Maintenance

DAY 2

8:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Field Exercises
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Field Exercises
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Equipment Maintenance

DAY 3

8:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Field Exercises
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Review, Final Exam, and Closing

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).

PREREQUISITES

All students must be a member of a public safety agency and at least 18 years of age. Students must have Dive Rescue 1 certification and 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. Diving students must have proof of open water certification.

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.