



***Completed PSSI Applications must be received no later than 45 days prior to your scheduled class start date in order to allow time for processing and provide adequate preparation time for the candidate.***

PSSI Course Location	Date
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Name _____		Date of Birth _____	
Mailing Address _____	City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Cell Phone _____	Work Phone _____		
Email _____	T-shirt size _____		

Department / Team \_\_\_\_\_ Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Email \_\_\_\_\_

This application does NOT guarantee your acceptance into the program. You will be notified of your acceptance after your application has been approved.

<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Water Certification	Certifying Agency _____	No. _____	Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dive Rescue I	Location _____	Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Med Dive	Location _____	Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Instructor Ratings			
	Certifying Agency _____	Date _____	
	Certifying Agency _____	Date _____	
	Certifying Agency _____	Date _____	
	Certifying Agency _____	Date _____	

Are you applying for PSSI crossover certification? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Enclosed is my full payment of \$ ☐ PSSI Tuition \$1,200 ☐ PSSI Crossover Training \$900

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Department Card Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Personal Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order Number \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide a copy of the PO with registration

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Your PSS/ Instructor material, pre-course study guide, recommended reading material and lecture requirements will be shipped upon approval of your completed application and paid tuition. Candidates can expect shipping and processing time of 10-14 days for this material (within the USA). Orders to Canada and outside of the contiguous US may require additional shipping time. Candidates may request expedited shipping however the applicant is responsible for any additional shipping fees. A credit card, Dive Rescue International account or Department Purchase Order is required for expedited shipments.

**The following support documents are required at the time of registration**

- ☐ Complete PSSI Application
- ☐ Completed Medical Form with Physician's Signature
- ☐ Proof of Current First Aid **or** EMT **or** Paramedic Certification(s)
- ☐ Proof of Current CPR Certification
- ☐ Copy of Department Sponsorship/Liability Letter
- ☐ Signed copy of Candidate Acknowledgement form
- ☐ Copy of Public Safety Diver or Open Water Diver certification card
- ☐ Copy of Current Dive Rescue I Certificate
- ☐ Copy of Med Dive Certificate
- ☐ Diving Resume - List any PSD and/or military diving experience (with copies of certificates, agency supervisor name), & other dive certifications (type, agency, date, & student number).
- ☐ Documentation of last 100 open water dives (At least 50% should be training or operational)
  
- ☐ Copy of Current Instructor Certification (for crossover certification) *if applicable*

I declare the information contained in this application to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Prior to signing this application, I verify that I have read the four (4) page PSSI pamphlet that accompanied this application and fully understood its contents and I have contacted Dive Rescue International to obtain answers to my questions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Submit Application To**

Dive Rescue International

Training Coordinator

201 N. Link Lane

Fort Collins, CO 80524

Fax (970) 482-0893

## **Other Inquiries**

(800) 248 3483

info@DiveRescueIntl.com



# Public Safety Scuba Instructor Application

## The PSSI Program

***The PSSI certification meets or exceeds all instructor requirements as outlined by the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC).***

Dive Rescue International developed the Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) program more than 20 years ago to fill a need in the public safety diving field for job-specific, public safety dive training. The PSSI program is an intensive, five-day course designed specifically to prepare and certify instructor candidates to teach the fundamental skills of open water diving for the purpose of certifying Public Safety Divers (PSD). Instructor candidates who successfully complete PSSI training are qualified to teach the classroom, pool, open water and evaluation/testing phases of the PSD program to department personnel. Through Dive Rescue International, the PSSI issues PSD certifications, PSD recertifications (required every three years) and PSD Crossover certifications to team members who already hold recreational diving certificates. The PSSI program provides public safety agencies the means to train, certify and re-certify their dive team members as PSDs when needed. PSDs who successfully complete this training are issued certification cards through Dive Rescue International.

## Meeting the Unique Challenges of Public Safety Divers

The PSSI and PSD programs are tailored specifically to meet the needs of public safety water rescue teams. Unlike recreational diving, PSDs must be prepared to function at a moments notice under a variety of challenging and hazardous environmental conditions including: adverse weather, zero visibility, and contaminated water using specialized equipment under physical and emotional strain. The PSSI provides the training and education to equip PSDs with the skills necessary to meet these challenges. The PSSI/PSD programs meet or exceed National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 2500, Standard for Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents (2022 Edition) and NFPA 1006, Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications (2021).

## Benefits for Your Team and Department

A distinguishing feature of the PSSI/PSD program is, that in cooperation with Dive Rescue International, the training is controlled by the PSSI's sponsoring agency or department. It allows the PSSI the flexibility to offer training when needed according to your department training schedule for any number of department members. The PSSI and PSD program can help reduce the liability exposure of a team that engages in public safety diving operations. Dive teams who are trained to standards that address the specialized challenges of public safety diving are less likely to become victims of tragedy and/or costly litigation. Note: Only members of a sponsoring agency or authorized department may be trained by the PSSI. All PSSI's must function on behalf of their sponsoring agency or department in order to obtain training and certification materials from Dive Rescue International.

## Dive Rescue International

Dive Rescue International was founded in 1977 in response to a growing need for high quality water rescue and recovery training designed specifically for public safety agencies. The training curriculum taught by Dive Rescue International is based on a combination of industry standards, tested and proven operational procedures, and real world applications. Dive Rescue International continues to train and consult with hundreds of local, municipal, state and federal law enforcement, fire rescue and other specialized rescue teams. Dive Rescue International's corporate training staff is comprised of professionals from fire rescue, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and other emergency service disciplines. Our corporate trainers are actively involved in their department's water rescue, recovery, and investigative units.

## PSSI Program and Format

The PSSI training program is designed for the professional public safety educator and diver. Instructor candidates should arrive at class with a solid, well established foundation of public speaking, teaching, and knowledge of the education process. The PSSI candidate should spend a considerable amount of time in preparation for class as well as during the week-long program to successfully obtain the PSSI certification.

Minimum Course Hours:

Pre-Course Study	60+ hours
5-Day Course	74 hours
Total	134+ hours

## Diving Knowledge, Skills and Techniques

Mastery of diving knowledge is required of all PSSI candidates. These topics include: gas laws, nitrogen narcosis, decompression sickness, decompression physiology, pulmonary barotrauma, repetitive dive tables, air consumption calculations, the underwater environment, and scuba equipment design, selection and use.

## Classroom Participation

The PSSI classroom format includes lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities. The PSSI candidate should be prepared to ask questions, participate in discussions, and be actively involved in all phases of the education process. A portion of the candidate's final grade will be an evaluation of participation and communication skills.

## Teaching Techniques and Lecture Skills

An effective educator is also an excellent communicator. Instructor candidates should possess a strong foundation of teaching and communication skills prior to arrival at class. Candidates will polish and refine their teaching techniques during the program by giving impromptu lectures, leading discussions, and receiving feedback from fellow students and instructors. The candidate's ability to effectively teach and lecture is a significant part of the final grade.

## Pool and Open Water Skills

PSSI candidates are expected to be physically fit and possess mastery level scuba skills upon arrival at class. Students will demonstrate their watermanship and scuba skills both in the pool and open water. During the program, candidates will learn to teach, evaluate, and test specific skin and scuba diving skills, both in the pool and open water settings.

## Preparing for the PSSI Program

Instructor materials, a suggested reference and reading list, a Pre-Course Study Guide, and Day One Presentation Guide will be sent to all instructor candidates who submit a full and complete application. Instructor candidates are expected to complete the following pre-course work prior to the class: 1) PSD student workbook, 2) PSD Recert Notebook. The PSSI candidate will take several written exams throughout the course of the week including a pre-test on day one to assess the candidate's baseline knowledge. A final exam is administered on the last day of class. Instructor candidates must obtain a passing grade of 85% or above on the final examination in order to successfully complete the class.

## How To Apply and Register for the PSSI Program

The first step in applying to the PSSI program is to satisfy the course prerequisites and gather the necessary supporting documentation. Submit a completed application and copies of supporting materials directly to Dive Rescue International along with a method of payment (department purchase order, credit card, or check). Incomplete applications will not be processed. Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the program. The instructor material, pre-class study guide, suggested reading material, and Day One Presentation Guide will be shipped upon receipt of a complete application.

***Please note that receipt of a completed application is not a confirmation of acceptance into the PSSI program. Dive Rescue International reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who does not meet eligibility requirements of the program.***

## **Special Considerations**

The PSSI certification is earned on the basis of performance during the program. Students will not be awarded certifications for mere attendance in the course. In this way, Dive Rescue International preserves the quality and integrity of the PSSI and PSD programs. This high standard reaffirms Dive Rescue International's commitment to present and future PSSIs. Graduates of the program are certified as Public Safety Scuba Instructors through Dive Rescue International for a (renewable) three (3) year period. As such, PSSIs are authorized to instruct, certify, and re-certify Public Safety Divers in conjunction with their departmental or team affiliation. To maintain high standards of quality, PSSIs must: 1) teach at least one PSD program every three years, 2) maintain an affiliation with their sponsoring agency, 3) maintain proficiency/certification in basic First Aid and CPR or EMT or Paramedic certification. 4) Maintain Dive Rescue 1 certification 5) complete PSSI re-certification package per schedule (once every three years).

## **PSSI Crossover for Certified Instructors**

If a PSSI candidate is already a diving instructor certified by an accredited member of the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC), and meets all other prerequisites for the PSSI program, the candidate is eligible to enroll in the course for a reduced tuition. Candidates who qualify must provide documentation of their current diving instructor certification as part of the required prerequisite documentation.

## **The Department's Role in Training**

The PSSI program is unique in that, in cooperation with Dive Rescue International, the Public Safety Scuba Instructor's department or agency maintains control over all PSSI activities. Only eligible department or agency personnel may be trained by the PSSI. In this way, the sponsoring department is assured full control of its investment in training while ensuring a high level of quality. Public Safety Diving courses may be scheduled at the convenience of the sponsoring department or agency. The PSSI is required to order a new PSD student kit directly from Dive Rescue International for each diver certified. The PSD kits include all class and certification materials. PSSIs are required to retain and maintain all student records for a minimum of a seven-year period. Instructor and student records are periodically audited by Dive Rescue International to maintain a high standard of quality and assure compliance with established training standards.

## **Prerequisites for the PSSI Program**

Successful PSSI applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

### **Department Affiliation**

The candidate must be a current member of a public safety department or agency who provides rescue, recovery, law enforcement, or fire suppression services to a municipal or government entity (written confirmation may be required).

### **Department Sponsorship / Insurance**

PSSI candidates must provide a sponsorship letter on department letter head that states the instructor is sponsored by their public safety agency and is covered by the department's liability or self insurance (sample letter enclosed). In the event that the department does not carry its own liability insurance a sponsorship letter is still required. The instructor must secure their own professional liability insurance that names Dive Rescue International as a co-insured (contact Dive Rescue International for more details).

### **Performance is evaluated in four (4) areas:**

1. Professionalism
2. Lecture Skills
3. Scuba Skills
4. Final Exam Score (85% or above)

## Age

The instructor candidate must be at least 21 years of age by the beginning date of class.

## Minimum Diver Certification

The PSSI candidate must hold at minimum an Open Water Certification from a nationally accredited certifying agency. Documentation of this certification is required with your application. Copies of a diver's log with a minimum of 100 logged open water dives must be submitted with the application. A minimum of 50% should be training or operational.

## First Aid and CPR Training

The candidate must provide documentation of successful completion and current certification of at a minimum, basic CPR and First Aid training or EMT or Paramedic certification(s).

## Medical Examination

The PSSI candidate must provide documentation of a current medical examination performed by a licensed physician that includes the physician's signature (medical examination form enclosed).

## Certifications

A copy of the candidate's current Dive Rescue I Specialist certification and Med Dive Specialist certificate must be provided with their application or by the beginning of class.

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# Sample Sponsorship Letter

MUST BE ON DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD  
and contain the following paragraphs!

### Date

Dive Rescue International  
Attn: Education Department  
201 North Link Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80524-2712

Dive Rescue International,

This will confirm that **(name)**, an employee of **(department)** is instructing Public Safety Diver to our employees in his/her capacity as a certified Public Safety Scuba Instructor.

**(Name)** is covered for instructor liability exposure while acting in his/her capacity as an employee of **(department)**. The trainer is defended by the agency self insurance or insured liability coverage.

**(Department)** understands that it is our responsibility to notify Dive Rescue International of changes in this coverage or this employee's status as an employee or instructor.

If you should have any questions on this matter please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
**(Department Name)**

Supervisor's Signature

(Supervisor's Name)  
(Supervisor's Position)



# Public Safety Scuba Instructor Candidate Acknowledgement

The Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) program is a demanding and very rewarding program. To better prepare you for this training experience we have outlined the most common topics and questions pertaining to this program. Please review each paragraph and initial each item then sign and date the form at the bottom. Make a copy for your records and return the original to Dive Rescue with your completed instructor application. Please contact the education department at 1-800-248-3483 if you have any questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ The PSSI program requires a minimum of sixty (60) dedicated hours of pre-course study prior to arriving the first morning of class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your completed Instructor Application should be submitted at least (45) days prior to the start of class. This will allow adequate time to prepare for class. After your completed application is received, your Instructor Materials, Study Guide, and Day One Presentation Guide will be sent to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ You are expected to arrive at class with Instructor level knowledge of scuba diving. You should possess a strong knowledge base of the following topics: Instructor Methods, Skin & Scuba Diving Equipment, Diving Physics, Decompression Physiology, Air Consumption, Aquatic Environment, and Emergency Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_ The PSSI program is both mentally and physically challenging. Each day of the program is approximately 16 hours long. This may include classroom/pool/open water time. Additional study time is required after classroom/pool/open water sessions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Due to the intense nature of the PSSI training program we discourage the instructor candidate from registering for the Dive Rescue I Trainer program at the same time. The DRI Trainer program is an intense week with similar prerequisites and schedule as PSSI.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Medical Statement requires a physician's signature. (see enclosure). Additionally, the questionnaire requires the words "yes" or "no" written next to each of the questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the PSSI Instructor Candidate Acknowledgement agreement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_