



Dive Rescue International 2026 Public Safety Diver Training Standards

- _____ 1. The most current version of the Public Safety Diver (PSD) Training Standards, Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) Training Manual, other PSD printed materials, plus various audio-visual materials are to be used only for PSD training programs. Whenever there is a disparity between any of these materials, the PSD Training Standards take precedence. If in doubt, contact Dive Rescue International (DRI) for guidance or interpretations.
- _____ 2. If a PSSI needs to deviate from the PSD Training Standards, a written request (waiver) sent to DRI is required well in advance of the needed deviation. The waiver explains the reason for the deviation and the planned procedures to ensure student safety. The waiver must be approved prior to any deviation from the PSD Training Standards.
- _____ 3. The Instructor/Trainer maintains both medical and physical fitness while teaching the PSD course. The IADRS Watermanship Test and SCUBA Skills Review should be completed annually but are required to be completed within 12 months of the PSSI recertification. Additionally, an RSTC Medical Form signed by a physician within 12 months of the PSSI recertification is required.
- _____ 4. If the PSSI becomes aware of any act, error, or omission which might lead to a claim or suit, or if a claim or suit is brought, DRI is to be notified immediately.
- _____ 5. There are no minimum program hours for the PSD program. The recommended minimum hours for a PSD program are 40 (5 days). Actual time needed will vary depending on the number of students, their skills, environmental conditions, and program logistics.
- _____ 6. Each student must complete a **Liability Release** and **Statement of Understanding** prior to any in-water training. Requests to change these documents should be submitted in writing for approval by DRI.
- _____ 7. Each student must complete a **RSTC Medical Statement** (or other medical history statement approved by DRI) prior to in-water training. If the RSTC Medical Statement or the appearance/behavior of the student indicates any condition contrary to safe participation in planned class activities, the student is then required to secure medical approval by a licensed physician prior to any in-water training.
- _____ 8. Each student must be provided a PSD student kit.
- _____ 9. Each student is required to satisfactorily participate in a minimum of six open water dives (one skin dive and five SCUBA dives) and score at least 85% on the final exam to qualify for PSD certification. If the student does not successfully complete the exam with a passing score, the student may re-take the exam once the Instructor/Trainer feels as though the student better understands the material. The student must re-take the entire exam. There is not a set amount of time that is required between the original exam and the re-take exam. Reasonable accommodations may be made for students with learning or reading challenges. These accommodations may include additional time to complete the exam or administering the exam verbally.
- _____ 10. The Instructor/Trainer shall retain and maintain the following documents for 7 years:
 - a) The PSD Student Folder and other documents used for monitoring and evaluating each student's progress, skills, and knowledge
 - b) The Liability Release/Statement of Understanding
 - c) RSTC Medical Statement or other approved Medical Statement
- _____ 11. A typed **Class Roster, Emergency Action Plan and digital photo of each student** shall be forwarded to DRI (Records@diverescueintl.com) within 10 days of the completion of the PSD or PSD Crossover class.
- _____ 12. The ratio of students to PSSIs for the classroom session is set by the Instructor/Trainer and is based on the ability of the Instructor/Trainer to deal effectively with student needs.
- _____ 13. PSSIs have an obligation to cancel or modify training when environmental conditions, students' physical or mental conditions, or equipment difficulties make cancellation or modification advisable. This is a value judgment that can only be made by the PSSI at the time and place of the training.

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- _____ 14. The Instructor/Trainer shall not harass students at any time. When students have reached a level of training where they are ready to deal with underwater problems, then realistic problems in the form of “crisis rehearsal” skills may be introduced. These “crisis rehearsal” skills are not intended for “stress inoculation”.
 - _____ 15. PSSIs are not to make changes in the PSD training program materials or skills that would prevent students from successfully completing the program. PSSIs may provide additional pool diving time. Any other modifications must be submitted in writing to DRI for approval prior to the commencement of class.
 - _____ 16. PSD training is restricted to members of public safety agencies, government agencies, recognized SAR teams, or recognized public safety dive teams. Recognized teams are those organizations who would normally work under the direction of a government agency.
 - _____ 17. The minimum age for participation in the PSD program is 18 years old.
 - _____ 18. All PSD students are to have and use dive logbooks for all training classes. The Instructor/Trainer and student are both to sign each log entry for all dives completed as a part of the PSD training course.
 - _____ 19. Instructor/Trainers are to insist that their students inform them if they are excessively cold or tired, injured or not feeling well. Instructor/Trainers are not to encourage students to participate if they have been ill. Nausea in a diver should be handled with extreme caution. Canceling a planned training operation in this situation may be the best decision.
 - _____ 20. All on-scene personnel are required to inform the Instructor/Trainer of all equipment difficulties and malfunctions. Minimum cylinder air supply cannot be less than 1000 PSI at any time during a dive. Students and qualified assistants should inform the Instructor/Trainer of any low air situations.
 - _____ 21. Instructor/Trainers are not to force students to perform skills. If a student verbally or by behavior indicates a desire not to do a skill, the Instructor/Trainer is to comply. The Instructor/Trainer may come back to the incomplete skill later in the class. If the skill is required for certification and has not been completed by the end of the course, the student may attend another course or the student may be provided a private instruction and re-test. This information must be documented and communicated to DRI.
 - _____ 22. A certified and current PSSI working under the authority of their sponsoring agency is to be present and supervising all PSD training activities. Other agency trainers, if current and insured, may be used as assistants but cannot replace the PSSI.
 - _____ 23. Students are to demonstrate effective Watermanship and basic SCUBA skills in a pool setting. As a minimum, the following skills are to be performed prior to any DRI open water training:
 - Successfully complete the most current version of the IADRS Watermanship Test
 - Move through the water and breathe effectively in a relaxed and comfortable manner
 - Effectively control buoyancy on the bottom, in mid-water, at the surface, during ascents and descents
 - Effectively clear both the regulator and the mask or full-face mask.
 - Remove and replace a SCUBA unit in the water.
 - Effectively share air both on the bottom and during an ascent.
 - Make an emergency buoyant ascent
 - Effectively handle equipment, in and out of the water before, during and after the dive

Instructor/Trainers may use these skills as a review, refresher, or to screen students at any time.

- _____ 24. If a pool is not available for training, the PSSI may select an appropriate open water site to conduct this portion of the program. This open water site provides swimming pool-like conditions with respect to clarity, calmness, and depth and be approved by DRI prior to any in-water training. All PSD sessions are to be conducted in a pool or pool-like setting prior to repeating the same skills in an open-water session.
- _____ 25. Night diving is included in the curriculum of the PSD course. Night dives are not to be made in limited visibility, heavy surf, in water deeper than forty feet or in currents. If it is not reasonable or safe to conduct a night dive, even though the curriculum calls for such a dive, then another dive combining both underwater activities and a skills review is to be done in place of the night dive.
- _____ 26. During all SCUBA training each student and Instructor/Trainer are to be equipped with at least:
 - Mask and snorkel
 - Fins
 - Buoyancy compensator with oral and low-pressure inflator

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- Regulator with alternate air source
 - Emergency signaling device
 - Two cutting tools
 - Submersible pressure gauge
 - Timing device
 - Depth gauge
 - Environmental protection suit (per agency protocol)
 - Gloves
 - Weight and weight system (belt or integrated system)
 - SCUBA cylinders having current visual and hydrostatic inspection dates

Students should be encouraged to use familiar equipment and should demonstrate adequate comfort with all equipment prior to any open water exercise. In the open water environment, students should never use unfamiliar equipment. The Instructor/Trainer or qualified assistant shall verify each student's safety check prior to the student entering the water.

- _____ 27. Open water is any body of water other than a swimming pool. During PSD training, the open water sites will be realistic of local conditions with diver safety being a primary consideration.
- _____ 28. The depth of open water training during a PSD course is not to exceed 40 feet.
- _____ 29. Any ascent training done during open water SCUBA dives simulating any emergency condition is to be done from depths of less than 30 feet.
- _____ 30. The number of open water SCUBA dives per day is not to exceed two.
- _____ 31. Open water training dives are to be conducted during daylight hours except for the night dive.
- _____ 32. Open water dives that are made to meet the minimum number of dives for certification are to be separate experiences, including an entry and exit from the water, and putting on and taking off SCUBA equipment. Each dive is to be of at least 15 minutes in duration. Students should experience a depth of at least 15' when open water conditions permit. Protective suits do not need to be removed between dives.
- _____ 33. The open water student to Instructor ratio is not to exceed 6 to 1 for skin diving, 2 to 1 for the first two experiences with SCUBA, and 4 to 1 for subsequent dives. Whenever possible, qualified assistants, such as certified Public Safety Scuba Instructors, should be used for training.
- _____ 34. When setting the proper student/trainer ratio, number of dives per day, or site selection, the following should be considered:
 - Water conditions: movement, temperature, visibility, and depth
 - Experience of the Instructor/Trainer and experience of the students
 - Number of qualified assistants
 - Emergency support available
 - Equipment considerations
 - Weather conditions
 - Degree of control by the Instructor/Trainer
 - Dive site suitability and accessibility
 - Suitability of terrain
 - Services available in the area

The PSSI is to decrease the in-water student to Instructor ratio whenever environmental conditions, individual student needs, or equipment considerations dictate.

- _____ 35. During open water skin dives, students are to remain in the general vicinity of and within sight of a PSSI. During the first two open water SCUBA dives, students are to remain in the immediate vicinity of a PSSI so that physical contact can be made at any time. During the next three open water SCUBA dives (the third, fourth, and fifth experiences on SCUBA in open water), students are to remain under the direct supervision of a PSSI. During subsequent SCUBA diving experiences, the PSSI is to be present and in control of the diving activities, but students are not required to stay with the PSSI. PSSI's may retain closer control of students than course standards require, but a PSD student should not dive independently of a PSSI.

_____ 36. If the entire PSD course is conducted in an open water (no pool is used), then the number of open water dives is to be increased. The number and types of additional dives are left to the PSSI's judgment based on environmental conditions, the equipment used, and student needs.

_____ 37. Open water SCUBA diving training is to be conducted so the students always have a clear and unrestricted access to the surface. This requirement, therefore, bars open water PSD training dives that involve penetration into caves, wrecks, or under the ice. Vegetation in the water may be considered when selecting a dive site but would not constitute an overhead environment as this may be realistic of local conditions.

_____ 38. Each PSSI conducting PSD training is to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for diving accidents. The plan is to include:

- Emergency guidelines
- Provisions for communications
- Provisions for transportation
- Emergency contact information

Emergency equipment that is to be available at the site includes:

- An AED (or other defibrillator)
- First Aid kit
- Oxygen unit
- Surface float with dive flag, if applicable
- Communication equipment

This equipment may be supplied by the Instructor/Trainer or by other means. The PSSI must turn in a copy of their EAP when submitting a Class Roster to DRI.

_____ 39. A dive platform, boat, or surface float capable of supporting a distressed diver is required to be within 200 feet of the diver's location. When appropriate, the float(s) can also display the diver down flag or a sign to warn others that divers are operating in the area.

Crossover Diver Testing Standards

_____ 1. The intent of the Crossover Diver Testing Standard is to provide a safe and effective way for experienced divers to become qualified Public Safety Divers. These divers must have either certification from other recognized diver training organizations or documented training in commercial, military, or scientific diving.

_____ 2. To be eligible for the Crossover Diver Test, divers must be at least 18 years old and have a total of at least 32 hours of dive experience and/or training. If this requirement is not met the diver should take a complete PSD course.

_____ 3. All current PSD Training Standards apply to the Crossover Diver Test. Those standards are to be reviewed before conducting the Crossover Diver Test to be sure that all requirements are met.

_____ 4. The Crossover Diver Test consists of:

- PSD final exam prior to open water SCUBA training
- Successful completion of the current version of the IADRS Watermanship Test
- At least one open water skin dive (this may be combined with the SCUBA dives)
- At least two open water SCUBA dives performed under direct supervision (navigation and night dives strongly recommended)
- Satisfactory performance of PSD open water skills

Successful completion of these skills is required for PSD Certification.

_____ 5. If any areas of weakness are indicated during the Crossover Diver Test, a review must be conducted using audio-visuals, lecture/discussion, and/or in-water practice.

_____ 6. As a minimum, the following skills are to be performed during the SCUBA skill evaluation:

- Move through the water and breathe effectively in a relaxed and comfortable manner
- Effectively control buoyancy on the bottom, in mid-water, at the surface, during ascents and descents

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- Effectively clear both regulator and mask
 - Remove and replace a SCUBA unit in the water
 - Effectively share air both on the bottom and during an ascent
 - Plan a dive and effectively work with a buddy
 - Make an emergency buoyant ascent
 - Effectively handle equipment

_____. 7. When the PSD final exam, IADRS Watermanship Test, open water dives, and open water skills are satisfactorily completed and the certification requirements in the current version of the PSD Training Standards have been met, the PSD certification may be issued.

By typing or signing your full name and Instructor/Trainer number, if known, in the fields below, you acknowledge you have read and understand all the Public Safety Diver Training Standards.

Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

Instructor/Trainer



Dive Rescue International 2026 Instructor/Trainer Agreement

This agreement is entered into on this _____ by and between Dive Rescue International, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Dive Rescue International (DRI) and _____ hereinafter referred to as the "Instructor/Trainer".

WITNESSETH THAT:

For and in consideration of Dive Rescue International verifying good standing, qualification and credentialing, the Instructor/Trainer agrees to abide by the following provisions and requirements:

- _____ 1. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to abide by standards and agreements established and put forth by DRI at this time, and such standards and agreements that are established and put forth by DRI at any time in the future.
- _____ 2. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to follow the class specific Standards and Agreements and the **Training System** including but not limited to the respective Trainer Manual and associated Audio-Visuals. The Instructor/Trainer also agrees to use the **Training System** for the teaching of the program and shall not copy, reproduce, or disseminate the **Training System** or its contents. Only certified Instructor/Trainers are allowed to use the **Training System**.
- _____ 3. The Instructor/Trainer understands that the Instructor/Trainer certification is granted only to members of public safety agencies and agrees to maintain his/her membership within a sponsoring public safety department or recognized public safety dive team.
- _____ 4. The Instructor/Trainer agrees that while serving in the capacity of an Instructor/Trainer to act only in such a manner as will bring credit to the Instructor/Trainer, their department, and to DRI.
- _____ 5. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain all records as are required by DRI.
- _____ 6. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to provide access to such records if requested by DRI, legal counsel or the insurance company representing DRI.
- _____ 7. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to teach the specific programs in compliance with the latest version of the **Training System**. Any updated **Training System** and Trainer Manual revisions, when released, will be communicated with the Instructor/Trainer. The Instructor/Trainer is responsible for inserting the revisions in the Trainer Manual and destroying outdated material. To facilitate the exchange of information, the Instructor/Trainer provides DRI with an email address and physical mailing address within 30 days of any change.
- _____ 8. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to comply with the recertification procedures as stipulated by DRI.
- _____ 9. To facilitate the exchange of information, the Instructor/Trainer will ensure DRI has an up-to-date email and physical address.
- _____ 10. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain current certification as a Public Safety SCUBA Instructor or a recreational SCUBA Instructor with a nationally recognized training agency (not applicable for trainers of surface rescue classes).
- _____ 11. The Instructor/Trainer understands that he/she is not an agent, employee, or legal representative of DRI and has no authority to bind DRI in any manner.



Dive Rescue International 2026 Instructor/Trainer Agreement

- _____ 12. Because DRI is unable to directly monitor the training process, teaching practices, or the activities of their Instructor/Trainers, it is clearly understood that Certificates of Training and all other materials are issued by DRI to Instructor/Trainers as a service. It is the sole responsibility of the Instructor/Trainer to assure that every person who receives a class certification meets all criteria as established in the published Training Standards. The Instructor/Trainer further agrees not to submit for certification or issue certification to any person who in any way fails to meet the intent as well as the letter of standards.
- _____ 13. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to maintain certification/proficiency in CPR and either First Aid, EMT, or Paramedic licensure.
- _____ 14. The Instructor/Trainer must be a current Instructor/Trainer in good standing with DRI to instruct this program.
- _____ 15. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to provide on department letterhead at initial certification and every recertification, a letter from his/her respective department stating that liability insurance coverage is provided through the department while working within his/her scope of employment for said department.
- _____ 16. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to teach the DRI training programs only to members of their sponsoring public safety agency. Teaching outside their sponsoring public safety agency requires a specific written waiver from DRI.
- _____ 17. The Instructor/Trainer agrees to promptly and immediately report to DRI accidents or incidents of any nature for the purpose of statistical data and future accident prevention measures.

The Instructor/Trainer agrees and understands that if he/she fails to meet any of the above provisions, standards or agreements, his/her status as an Instructor/Trainer is subject to immediate revocation at the discretion of authorized DRI personnel.

The undersigned state that they have read the foregoing and understand all terms, conditions, and provisions therein as indicated by their signatures hereon below.

Dive Rescue International Representative/Training Team

Instructor/Trainer



Dive Rescue International Audio-Visual System Agreement

This agreement is entered into on _____ by and between Dive Rescue International, Inc. (DRI), 201 North Link Lane, Suite A, Fort Collins, CO 80524-2712 and Instructor/Trainer _____.

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement and for other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

_____ **1. Audio-Visual System Use**

Dive Rescue International has compiled an audio-visual system of print and digital media for use in presenting Dive Rescue International's training programs. This print and digital media, currently constituting Dive Rescue International's audio-visual system, together with any other components of Dive Rescue International's audio-visual system as it may be constituted in the future, are referred to in this Agreement as the "System". Dive Rescue International grants Instructor/Trainer the right to use the System under the terms of this Agreement in conducting such Dive Rescue International training programs as may be authorized by Dive Rescue International. Without the express written consent of Dive Rescue International, Instructor/Trainer shall not make any use of this System other than in conducting the referenced Dive Rescue International training programs and shall not copy, reproduce, or disseminate the System or its contents.

_____ **2. Proprietary Rights**

The System is proprietary to Dive Rescue International and any unauthorized use of the System will cause irreparable harm and loss to Dive Rescue International. By this Agreement, Dive Rescue International grants no rights to Instructor/Trainer under any copyrights or trade names associated with the System.

_____ **3. Assignment**

Instructor/Trainer's right to use the System is personal to Instructor/Trainer and Instructor/Trainer shall not transfer or assign this Agreement or any rights under this Agreement without the prior written consent of Dive Rescue International.

_____ **4. Breach of Agreement**

If Instructor/Trainer breaches any provision of this Agreement, Dive Rescue International may immediately revoke all Dive Rescue International certifications held by Instructor/Trainer and may assert against Instructor/Trainer all available legal and equitable remedies and shall be entitled to all costs and attorney fees incurred in doing so. Instructor/Trainer also agrees to indemnify and hold Dive Rescue International harmless against all liability, loss, or damage, including attorney fees, which Dive Rescue International may suffer as a result of claims, demands, costs, or judgments against it arising directly or indirectly from Instructor/Trainer's performance or nonperformance of this Agreement.

_____ **5. Termination**

Dive Rescue International reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Instructor/Trainer. On termination, should the Instructor/Trainer then have the System in the Instructor/Trainer's possession, Instructor/Trainer shall immediately return the System to Dive Rescue International as provided in Section 1 above.

_____ **6. General Provisions**

- a) **Waiver of Breach:** No waiver of any breach of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver or any other or subsequent breach.
- b) **Entire Agreement:** This instrument reflects the entire Agreement between the parties, and it cannot be modified except in writing.
- c) **Binding Effect:** This Agreement shall not be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties, their successors, assigns and legal representation.