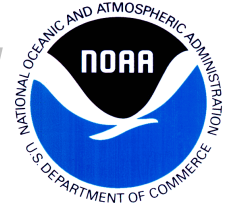




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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

November 2002

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE TRAINING SCHEDULE BELOW (IN BOLD).

The **January Working Diver and Divemaster courses** are full and training slots have been assigned. Any additional enrollees will be added to a standby list.

A general reminder for all units/ships with diver candidates enrolled for the **January training classes**; all student enrollment materials (training request, physical, equipment measurement form, swim test, etc.) are due ASAP to NDC.

A **Diver Refresher** course is tentatively scheduled for April 2003. This course can be used to re-certify NOAA Working Divers who's proficiency has lapsed for a year or more. It can also be used by active NOAA divers (Scientific or Working) to certify in the use of a NOAA dry suit or for NOAA employees to complete their Scientific Diver certification.

Training requests are being accepted for the **May/June Working Diver and Divemaster** courses.

Please contact Laurie Barber if you have any questions about above courses. ☐

The following classes are scheduled for:

2003

Jan 13 - 31 Working Diver Key West, FL

Jan 27 - 31 Divemaster Key West, FL

Apr TBD Diver Refresher Seattle, WA

May 19 - Jun 06 Working Diver Seattle, WA

Jun 02 - Jun 06 Divemaster Seattle, WA

Sep 15 - Oct 03 Working Diver Seattle, WA

Sep 29 - Oct 03 Divemaster Seattle, WA

MEDICAL UPDATE

Diving and the effects of increased pressure on the body is a complex issue and not always well understood. Diving injuries (DCS, AGE, etc.) can occur for a variety of reasons whether the injury was "deserved" (not following safe diving practices) or not. Further complicating matters is that diving injuries are not always apparent to the diver or an outside observer and may present with signs or symptoms that are very subtle or can easily be mistaken for a non-diving injury.

As a result, all NOAA divers are reminded that **you should not be diving with any recent traumatic injury that is causing you any active symptoms.**

Recent traumatic injuries can confuse the medical picture in trying to determine if presenting symptoms are dive related or not. Examples would include any injuries that are causing numbness, pain, swelling, reduced strength, reduced range of motion, etc.

Another related item to remember is that in seeking medical care **for any reason**, it is inherent upon the diver to notify the examining clinician that you have been scuba diving within the last 72 hours. Again, diving injuries can present with a complex mix of signs and symptoms that can easily be confused with other ailments. Presenting for medical care and failing to inform the provider that you have been scuba diving is a dangerous practice, and one that can easily lead to misdiagnosis of a diving related condition and possible, preventable, further injury. ☐

ANNUAL REPORT

To you few remaining holdouts.....

A reminder that **completed annual reports were due to your unit's LODO/OMAO FDO by October 15, 2002**. These reports are very important for documenting NOAA Diving Program activities and are used to create the NDP Annual Report. Please submit them to your LODO or NDC as soon possible! **Thank you** to all units who have already submitted their annual reports. [K]

ANNUAL TRAINING

Per your diving regulations.....

"NOAA-certified divers shall undergo yearly refresher training in oxygen administration, recognition and treatment of diving accidents and injuries, dive rescue, decompression tables, and in-water diving emergency skills. CPR and First Aid refresher training shall be completed in accordance with agency guidelines for certification".

Meaning..... Divers, Divemasters and Unit Diving Supervisors shall ensure that a yearly in-water emergency drill is conducted for each ship/unit. They also shall ensure that their CPR and First Aid certifications are valid (current) at all times.

The NOAA Diving Center can assist your ship/unit in satisfying the remaining training requirements. Last year a "refresher" CD was issued to all ships and Unit Diving Supervisors requesting one. This CD is still valid and should be viewed by all divers in a unit/on a ship if no other training has been performed to satisfy the yearly refresher requirements. A new refresher CD with updated materials will be issued to all ships with their next roster mailing. Other diving units may also receive this updated refresher CD by sending a request to Laurie Barber at NDC. **Or.....**

In the very near future (December), a Refresher section will also be added to the NOAA Diving web site. This section will contain the materials from the refresher CD and can be viewed on an individual diver basis. More details to follow as this section is finalized. [K]

INSPECTION CHECKLISTS

Yes, its that time of year again! All ships, diving units, and sub-units are required by the NOAA Diving Regulations to conduct an annual diving inspection. The inspection checklist provides NOAA wide guidelines for the condition and requirements of dive units/lockers to ensure unit operational readiness and safety. This inspection should be performed in a conscientious and thorough manner to identify and address deficiencies. **Completed inspection checklists should be forwarded to the unit's (or ship's) LODO/FDO no later than January 15, 2003**. After careful review, the LODO should forward the completed checklists to the NOAA Diving Center by January 31, 2003. **Any discrepancies are to be evaluated by the UDS/LODO/FDO and corrected by the unit as soon as possible**.

So where can you locate one of these highly sought after self analysis tools? Checklists will be mailed to all ships and units with their next unit roster. A fillable PDF version is also available on the NDC website (www.ndc.noaa.gov) under the forms section, titled "Annual Unit Inspection Checklist." The form can be completed and printed, but not saved. Please contact LT Bill Cobb if you have any questions or comments on the form or the inspection process. [K]

TRI TEST KITS

Dive compressor air test kits are scheduled to be mailed from TRI to ships/units starting January 21, 2003. If you will be unable to complete the testing at that time for any reason (travel, compressor maintenance, ship's sailing schedule, etc.), please contact Laurie Barber (laurie.barber@noaa.gov) as soon as possible to re-schedule the mailing of the test kit. As always, any late charges levied by TRI on kits that are not returned promptly will be passed directly to the unit. Also, please note that additional charges will be levied if a kit is returned to TRI unused and an additional kit must be sent to that unit at a later date. NOAA Diving Regulations require that NOAA dive compressor air quality be tested every 6 months. [K]