

NOAA DIVING PROGRAM PRE AND POST DIVE CHECKLIST

PRE-DIVE

Mission Safety

- A NOAA Unit Diving Supervisor, or designee approved dive plan and dive accident management plan.
- Dive operations are planned in accordance with NOAA Diving Regulations.
- Dive mission, objectives and goals are defined, reviewed and understood by the dive team and support personnel.
- All divers are on active dive status with the NOAA Diving Program (contact UDS if in doubt about a diver's status).
- The Diving Accident Management Plan is posted, coordinated and reviewed (i.e., chamber availability, evacuation route, etc.), and all personnel are informed of their duties.
- Conduct a pre-dive briefing.

Evaluate and Prepare for Potential Hazards

- Identify dive site entry procedures and exit access point(s).
- Define depth, bottom time and cylinder ending pressure limits for the planned dive.
- Define next deeper depth and next longer bottom time limits in case planned limits are exceeded.
- Evaluate and discuss potential for entrapment, entanglement, or other physical or mechanical hazards.
- Evaluate and discuss potential for bottom obstructions or dangerous bottom conditions.
- Evaluate and discuss potential for dangerous marine life.
- Evaluate and discuss potential for contamination or exposure to pollution (i.e., petroleum products, biological or chemical hazards).
- Evaluate and discuss surface and subsurface conditions and potential for strong current, low visibility, cold water, thermoclines, surge, swell, and fog.
- Evaluate and discuss local marine traffic hazards (notify vessel traffic of diving operations).
- Complete Dive Safe Ship Operations (NOAA Form 64-3), if applicable.
- Ensure that Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available and reviewed prior to use of any hazardous chemicals.

Diving and Support Personnel

- Ensure that all divers are authorized to perform their assigned duties according to their NOAA certification levels (i.e., Working Diver, Scientific Diver, Trainee Diver, or Observational Diver).
- Ensure that all divers are qualified (i.e., proper training and experience) to complete assigned underwater tasks safely.
- Verify that all divers are physically and mentally fit to conduct the dive.
- Ensure that all divers are properly hydrated and rested before the dive.
- Ensure support personnel understand all diver hand signals, emergency recall signals and can offer immediate assistance in case of an emergency.
- Provide an assessment of repetitive dive designations of a previous dive was made within 12 hours.
- Brief the dive team and support personnel.

Equipment

- All support equipment (i.e., boats, compressor, oxygen kit, underwater tools, etc.) are operated by trained and competent personnel.
- Dive platform is stable, seaworthy and outfitted with appropriate safety equipment.
- All dive techniques to be used are safe and appropriate and authorized.
- All tools used are appropriate for the task.
- All dive gear is on-hand and fully functional prior to the divers arriving on site and prior to entering the water.
- All emergency and support equipment are available and fully functional prior to commencing dive operations:
 - Drinking water available.
 - Means of communication (i.e., VHF radio, cellular telephone, landline telephone, NAVSAT etc.) on-site and fully functional.
 - Complete diving first aid kit, first aid handbook, oxygen resuscitator and backboard.
 - Divemaster kit on site, including a complete set of 1999 U.S. Navy Dive Tables and 1999 NOAA Nitrox Tables.
- Rigid replicas of appropriate dive flags (sport and/or alpha) are prominently displayed.

POST-DIVE CHECKLIST

- Dive team buddies have remained together for a minimum of 30 minutes after each dive and have monitored each other's condition during that time.
- Notify watch on the vessel's bridge when operations are completed (if applicable).
- Strike the dive flags.
- Recover and stow all support equipment.

NOAA Pre and Post Dive Checklist

- Ensure that all personal dive equipment and support equipment is thoroughly cleaned and properly stowed.
- Tag all damaged or malfunctioning equipment and remove from use.
- Log all dives and topside activities.
- Monitor divers for signs and symptoms of pressure-related illnesses or injuries for a minimum of 2 hours after each dive.
- Conduct a dive debrief and critique operations, including procedures for flying after diving (if applicable).
- Provide contact numbers for nearest chamber, UDS and Divemaster.

Printed name of person completing checklist: _____

Signature of above person: _____

Date checklist completed: _____