



TOPSIDE



August 2007

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

TRAINING SCHEDULE

All individuals applying for any dive classes offered by the NDC must submit the following items;

- NDC Training Request/Authorization Form
- NOAA diving physical (NF 56-57, DD 2807-1, DD 2808)
- Swim test and Dive resume
- Standardized Equipment Measurement Form
- Minimum Physical Fitness Standards Form
- Current First-aid and CPR certificates

All forms are available online at:

www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html.

Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center.

Events scheduled through January 2008:

Oct 8 - 26	Working Diver	Seattle
Oct 22 - 26	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov 26 - Dec 1	DMT	Seattle
Dec 3 - 14	MPIC	Seattle
Jan 11 -29	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 25 - 29	Divemaster	Key West

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail laurie.barber@noaa.gov.

Due to budget restrictions the Fall WD class has been pushed into October, please see the schedule dates above. The class is currently full but we can put names on the waiting list for cancellations slots, if desired.



NAVY/NOAA SATFADS UPDATE

Here are some of the minutes from a meeting held this week with all involved parties;

- There will not be a NOAA dive selection week. Resumes and qualifications will be used instead.
- The mission has been pushed back into FY 2009
- The NDC currently has 12 applications, 5 NOAA, 7 Non-NOAA
- The Navy will produce a training schedule soon which will be distributed to all NOAA Divers
- Deadlines for applications has been pushed to the end of September 07.

WORKING DIVER CLASS PRE-REQUISITE

The NOAA Dive Safety Board reached a decision during it's annual meeting regarding minimum experience levels for the Working Diver class. As a result, **effective for the May 08 WD class, all applicants will be required to have a basic open-water SCUBA certificate prior to attending the class.**

The aim of this pre-requisite is to prevent lost training opportunities due to unfamiliarity with the underwater environment. Statistically, the most common reason for non-completion of a dive class is ear barotrauma or infections. The pressure changes and intense diving requirements tax ears that have not previously been in a hyperbaric environment. When a student washes out that slot is lost. We hope this change will diminish the non-completion rates.

If you have questions on this, please contact LT Eric Johnson at eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov.



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NEW DIVE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS ALGORITHM

To all NOAA divers and supervisors,

In 2005 the NDP implemented a policy requiring all dives conducted >6-hours from a hyperbaric chamber and/or utilizing air transportation for emergency evacuation of an injured diver to be reviewed in advance by the NOAA Diving Center (NDC). The intent of the review is to ensure adequate safeguards, including the need for on-site chambers, is in place for more intense (e.g., multi-day/multi-dive) operations.

The NOAA Diving Safety Board recently approved a revision to the above policy to specify when dive plans are required to be reviewed based on a set of objective criterion. The revised policy is effective immediately and is available on the NDC website.

Please contact Steve Urick or Dave Dinsmore if you have any questions concerning this modification of the dive plan review requirement.

