

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Aug. 01, 1987	4.15
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	Sep. 30, 2013	2
Underwater Search and Recovery		



I. Introduction

The Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) is responsible for underwater search and recovery operations. The USRU is not responsible for rescue operations. Underwater search and recovery operations encompass underwater criminal investigations, the recovery of bodies and property, and other operations, which by their nature fall into the scope of duties and obligations of the Division of Police.

II. Policy Statements

- A. If the request is for an under ice recovery, approval shall be made by the Dive Master with notification to the **Homeland Security** Deputy Chief and the Chief of Police.
- B. Requests for Water Recovery Services at Drowning Scenes and Potential Suicides by Entering a Body of Water
 1. Communications Bureau personnel shall make notifications as follows:
 - a. The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. The Homicide Unit, as needed.
 - c. The Patrol Administration Sergeant.
 - d. The USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant or the Dive Master.
 - e. The county coroner, as needed.
 2. If the occurrence is during normal business hours, Communications Bureau personnel shall also make the following notifications:
 - a. The zone commander for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. The Special Services Bureau Commander.
 - c. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant.
 - d. The deputy chief of the appropriate Patrol Subdivision.
- C. Requests for Water Recovery Services at all other Scenes
 1. Communications Bureau personnel shall make notifications as follows:
 - a. The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence.
 - b. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant.
 - c. The on-duty Special Services Bureau Support Section Lieutenant.
 - d. For an immediate call out of the USRU:
 - (1) Make notifications using the current list of team members maintained by the Communications Bureau.
 - (2) Obtain and record the estimated time of arrival of all team members notified.

III. Procedures

A. On-Duty Special Services Bureau Support Section Lieutenant, or Zone Lieutenant

1. If a search operation is warranted, notify the USRU in the following order until a notification is made:
 - a. Dive Master.
 - b. Assistant Dive Master.
 - c. USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant.
 - d. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant.
 - e. On-duty USRU member.
2. Mark involved team members on special assignment. No team member will respond if on their second day off unless approved by the Special Services Bureau Commander.

B. Dive Master/Assistant Dive Master

Assume operational command of diving operations at the recovery location.

C. USRU Member in Charge of the Dive

When conducting underwater search and recovery operations, ensure dive operations are executed in a safe manner and that USRU members do not take unnecessary risks.

D. Request from a Foreign Agency

1. Communications Bureau Personnel
 - a. When notified of a request from a foreign agency within Franklin County, contact the USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made.
 - b. When notified of a request from a foreign agency contiguous to Franklin County, contact the Special Services Bureau Commander who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made. The Special Services Bureau Commander shall inform the USRU of the decision.
 - c. When notified of a request from a foreign agency not within Franklin or a contiguous county, contact the **Homeland Security** Subdivision Deputy Chief who shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made.