

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Aug. 01, 1987	4.15
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	Dec. 30, 2019	3
Underwater Search and Recovery		



I. Introduction

The Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) is responsible for underwater search and recovery operations. Underwater search and recovery operations encompass underwater criminal investigations, the recovery of bodies and property, and other **functions that**, by their nature, fall into the scope of duties and obligations of the Division of Police. **During special events or an emergency, the USRU may be involved with a rescue operation, subject to training and equipment.**

II. Policy Statements

- A. ***Taking into consideration the environment and safety concerns, the Divemaster (or designee) shall determine if a request is within the ability of the USRU.*** If the request is for an under-ice recovery, the Divemaster ***shall notify*** the ***Support Services Subdivision*** Deputy Chief.
- B. ***Communications Bureau personnel shall make the appropriate notifications regarding requests for water recovery services at drowning scenes and potential suicides involving a body of water.***
- C. ***Request from a Foreign Agency***
 1. ***The USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made for a request from a foreign agency within Franklin County.***
 2. ***The Support Operations Bureau Commander shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made for a request from a foreign agency contiguous to Franklin County. The Support Operations Bureau Commander shall inform the USRU of the decision.***
 3. ***The Support Services Subdivision Deputy Chief shall determine what type of response, if any, will be made for a request from a foreign agency not within Franklin or a contiguous county.***

III. Procedures

A. **Requesting** Lieutenant

1. If a search operation is warranted, **notify Communications Bureau personnel and have them contact USRU personnel** in the following order until a notification is made:

Note: Refer to the “Teams/Temporary Units” link on the Division’s intranet under the “Publications” link.

- a. Divemaster
- b. Assistant Divemaster
- c. On-duty USRU member
 - (1) No team member will respond if on **his or her** second day off unless approved by the **Support Operations** Bureau Commander.
- d. USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant
- e. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant

B. **Communications Bureau Personnel**

1. **For requests involving water recovery services at drowning scenes and potential suicides in a body of water, notify the following personnel:**

a. **All requests**

- (1) **The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence**
- (2) **The Homicide Unit as needed**
- (3) **The Headquarters Operations Unit Sergeant**
- (4) **The USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant or the Divemaster**
- (5) **The county coroner as needed**

b. **Requests made during normal business hours**

- (1) **The zone commander for the zone of occurrence**
- (2) **The Support Operations Bureau Commander**
- (3) **USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant**
- (4) **The Patrol Operations Subdivision Deputy Chief**

2. **For requests involving water recovery services at all other scenes, notify the following:**

- a. The zone lieutenant for the zone of occurrence
- b. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant

- 3. For requests from a foreign agency, contact the following personnel:**
 - a. The USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant for a response determination if within Franklin County.**
 - b. The Support Operations Bureau Commander for a response determination if within a county contiguous to Franklin County.**
 - c. The Support Services Subdivision Deputy Chief for a response determination for all requests outside of Franklin and contiguous counties.**
- 4. For requests involving an immediate call out of USRU personnel:**
 - a. Make notifications using the current list of team members maintained by the Communications Bureau.**
 - b. Obtain and record the estimated time of arrival of all team members notified.**
- C. Divemaster/Assistant Divemaster**

Assume operational command of diving operations at the recovery location.
- D. 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.