

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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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 ***Dive Safety Officer***) 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 ***USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant and the Special Operations Subdivision Deputy Chief***.
- B. Communications 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 ***Special Services*** 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 ***Special Services*** Bureau Commander shall inform the USRU of the decision.
 3. The ***Special Operations*** 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 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. USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant

d. Dive Safety Officer

e. On-duty USRU Member (air on all zones)

The Divemaster, USRU Administrative Dive Sergeant, and Dive Safety Officer shall be approved for second-day-off pay. All other members shall be approved for second-day-off pay by the Special Services Bureau Commander.

f. USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant

B. Communications 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, Divemaster, **or Dive Safety Officer**
- (5) The county coroner as needed

b. Requests made during normal business hours

- (1) The zone commander for the zone of occurrence
- (2) The **Special Services** Bureau Commander
- (3) USRU Administrative Dive Lieutenant
- (4) The **deputy chief of the appropriate Patrol subdivision**

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 within Franklin County.
- b. The **Special Services** Bureau Commander for a response determination within a county contiguous to Franklin County.
- c. The **Special Operations** 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 **Emergency Communications Center**.
- b. Obtain and record the estimated time of arrival of all team members notified.

C. Divemaster/Assistant Divemaster **or Dive Safety Officer**

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.