



Water Rescue Team Assessment

The Making of a Professional Water Rescue Team

What capabilities should your team have before your community can consider itself protected by a professional water rescue team?

Perhaps you can best answer this question by knowing the water conditions and types of missions your team will be called upon to respond. The following list of questions may be of help as you determine whether or not your team and department are prepared to react as professionals in both surface and subsurface search, recover, and rescue missions.

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| 1. | Does your team have written standard operating procedures? | Yes | No |
| 2. | Do you know how to deal effectively with bereaved family members? | Yes | No |
| 3. | Can you make an accurate scene evaluation? | Yes | No |
| 4. | Are your team members trained to conduct witness interviews? | Yes | No |
| 5. | Does your community and its leaders understand the capabilities and limitations of your team? | Yes | No |
| 6. | Does your community and its leaders support the goals and idea of your team? | Yes | No |
| 7. | Have you trained in the proper methods for effective press/media relations? | Yes | No |
| 8. | Does your team operate effectively within your community's Incident Command System? | Yes | No |
| 9. | Does your team, community, and its leaders have common goals, and a specific level of service that everyone is striving to reach? | Yes | No |

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| 10. | Are you trained and prepared to field manage divers suffering from a compressed gas injury? | Yes | No |
| 11. | Can you make an operational risk/benefit evaluation? | Yes | No |
| 12. | Is your team able to operate in, and differentiate between, rescue and recovery modes? | Yes | No |
| 13. | Can your team effectively run underwater search patterns? | Yes | No |
| 14. | Can your team accurately document an underwater crime scene for court presentation purposes? | Yes | No |
| 15. | Is your team able to prepare and present evidence effectively in a criminal, civil, or coroner court of inquiry? | Yes | No |