

# Emergency Assistance Plan for:

## Brockville Dives, Canadian side

**In a Medical Emergency:** If you are diving on a charter boat, the Charter operator will dispatch 911. Please follow the instructions the Charter operator gives you.

If you are diving from shore, call 911:

Tell them you have a Scuba Diving related injury, that you were Diving in the St. Lawrence River and give them your location. Use street names, house numbers. If necessary give them land marks

Once you have called EMS , instruct someone to meet the EMS people in an agreed upon location, and have them direct the EMS people to the location of the accident victim.

Stay with the patient(s), protect yourself with the necessary safety precautions E.g. gloves, pocket mask etc.

Ensure patient receives the appropriate 1<sup>st</sup> aid, including, but not limited to CPR , Emergency Oxygen, Fluids as required, Ensure the diver is comfortable and warm. Maintain this until the EMS people arrive.

If conscious ask the patient questions as noted on the attached **Information pertaining to an accident** sheet. Ask any other divers who may have witnessed the incident, questions as well. Record only factual answers on the attached form. Do not be judgemental.

When the EMS people arrive, give them the Divers are different pamphlet located in the O2 kit and cooperate with them in any way you can.

If the patient is being transported to a medical facility, ask the EMS people which facility they are going to.

Notify the patients emergency contact, give them only facts of the accident and where the patient is being transferred to.

**Nearest Medical facility:** Brockville General Hospital, 75 Charles Street, Brockville, ON K6V 1S8

Telephone # for Brockville General Hospital 1 613 345-5645

**Directions to the Brockville General Hospital from Centeen Park :** Total time to get to the hospital is 3 minutes On Water street drive East for 50 m and turn left on Orchard Street in 100 m turn right onto King Street, in 110 meters turn left onto Ormond Street, and your destination is on the right in 450 meters.

### **Closest Hyperbaric Chambers:**

- 1) Ottawa General Hospital 501 Smyth Rd. Ottawa. Phone # 613 737-8966
- 2) Toronto General Hospital 200 Elizabeth St. room 405 on the Ground floor. Phone #on weekdays 416 340-4131. On weekends 416 340-3155.
- 3) Hamilton McMaster Hospital. 237 Barton Street, Hamilton. Phone # 1 800 668 4357 Postal Code L8L 2X

**Contact Information for DAN** ( Divers Alert Network) 919-684-8111 or 919 684- 4326. They accept collect calls.

**Contact Information for the OPP** \*677

## Emergency Procedures

### Lost Diver procedures:

- Assess the degree of urgency; Consider time overdue, planned dive profile (max depth, total dive time) and possible decompression and breathing gas status
- Question the dive buddy if available to determine; - any obvious problem - where and when the missing diver was last seen, what the diver was doing and the direction they were swimming - maximum depth reached - last known tank contents and likely consumption - diving experience and condition of the missing diver - diver's likely action in the event of separation and/or emergency - where buddy surfaced relative to the separation point
- Reassess the degree of urgency in light of the information gathered
- Buoy the area where the diver was last seen
- Place a lookout at the highest possible vantage point
- Scan the surface/shoreline for divers and bubbles
- Check the diver has not boarded any neighbouring boats, gone ashore elsewhere or has surfaced and left the site.
- Consider whether it is necessary to conduct an underwater search, a surface search, or both
  
- If it appears a search is necessary, recall all divers. If an underwater search is to be conducted, prepare the standby divers. Determine who can participate in a search without compromising anyone's safety.
- If bubbles are visible, send in a pair of standby divers to investigate
- Call EMS and follow the procedures above If asea notify the Coast Guard. Utilise any available boats and divers and prepare an appropriate search
- Consider current movement/change. Concentrate the search down-current from where the diver was last seen but also check up-current
- Do not endanger the search divers

### Unconscious Diver:

Surface the unconscious diver and call for help. Check for breathing and pulse. Remove the diver's equipment while providing rescue breaths if necessary. Move the diver to shore and contact emergency medical services (EMS.) Continue CPR until EMS arrives> Current guidelines for CPR are as follows

- 1) Two hands centred on the chest
- 2) Your shoulders directly over your hands
- 3) Compressions at a depth of at least 2"
- 4) Rate of 100 to 120 / minute, allowing chest to return to normal position after each compression
- 5) Ratio of 30 compressions to 2 breathes

**Aquatic Stings:** Wash the area with salt water. Soak the wound in hot water no hotter than 113°F (45°C) for 30 to 90 minutes, if told to do so by trained personnel. Always test water temperature before applying it to a child. Box jellyfish stings should be immediately rinsed with vinegar.

**Information Pertaining to an accident ( Use a second form if there is more than 1 diver)**

Divers name \_\_\_\_\_

Divers Emergency contact name and # \_\_\_\_\_

Divers address \_\_\_\_\_

Divers phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Divers age \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the accident \_\_\_\_\_ Time of the accident \_\_\_\_\_

Water and weather conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Description of how the accident happened including events leading up to the accident:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dive Profile Information ( Depth, length of dives and # dives that day)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

First Aid administered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signs and Symptoms of the injured diver: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Diver Medical History:**

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **In a Non emergency situation**

Protect yourself as required.

Render first aide as required, ask questions and make notes.

Consider if the patient needs medical attention and if so ensure they are accompanied to a medical facility.

### **Prior to the start of any dives the Dive Leader must.**

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the emergency equipment. Ensure it is all in working condition.
- 2) Check the 1<sup>st</sup> aide kit to ensure it is properly stocked, notify the SUCI VP of any issues, such as missing or damaged or unusable items
- 3) Do a thorough Dive briefing with all divers so they are familiar with local hazards such as entrapment, entanglement, changing conditions such as tides, surg or surf.
- 4) Be aware of the weather, including any incoming weather that may have an effect on the dives you are about to do.
- 5) Familiarize yourself with the “ Special Medical Care for Scuba divers” attachment and share with EMS personnel if necessary

Disclaimer: This Emergency Assistance plan is designed as a guideline to aide in the assistance of a diving accident victim. It is the responsibility of the person using this Emergency Assistance Plan to act according to the situation and make changes as necessary to ensure the best possible care of the diver. The Scarborough Underwater Club Inc., its executive and its members assume no responsibility for its accuracy.

### **Good Samaritan Law in Ontario**

A person who voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation provides emergency first aid services is not liable for damages that result from the person’s negligence in acting or failing to act while providing the services, unless the damages were caused by gross negligence of the person”