

Emergency Assistance Plan for: The Niagara River, Fort Erie

In a Medical Emergency: Call 911. Tell them you have a Scuba Diving related injury, that you are Diving in the Niagara River. If possible and give them the house # you are closest to on the Niagara River Parkway. Use the Railway Bridge and Frenchman's Creek as references as to where you are located

Once you have called EMS, instruct someone to meet the EMS people on the Niagara River Parkway (This is the road that runs parallel to the River), 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 1st aide, 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: Nearest Medical facility is Niagara General Hospital 5546 Portage Road Niagara Falls,

Postal Code ON L2E 6X2

Telephone # for the Niagara General Hospital 1 905.378.4647

Directions to the Niagara River Hospital from the dive Site : _____ (Note: Time to the Hospital is 23 minutes)

Directions to the hospital: Head north on Niagara Parkway towards Niagara Falls (Head in the direction the river is flowing), in 3.7 KM turn left onto Townline Rd. in 4.5 KM Turn right onto Netherby Rd and in 550 Meters Merge onto the QEW toward Toronto. Stay on the QEW for 17 KM and then merge onto Highway 420 toward Niagara Falls USA. In 2.8 KM turn right onto Stanley Ave toward County Road 102 South, in 300m Turn right on North Street and then in 450 meters Turn Right. The Hospital is on the Right.

Closest Hyperbaric Chambers:

- 1) Hamilton McMaster Hospital. 237 Barton Street, Hamilton. Phone # 1 800 668 4357 Postal Code L8L 2X2
- 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) Ottawa General Hospital 501 Smyth Rd. Ottawa. Phone # 613 737-8966

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: _____

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 1st 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”