



## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA (Inc)

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

## **LOST or MISSING DIVER(S) – BOAT DIVE** **(APPENDIX B)**

*IF DIVER(S) HAVE NOT RETURNED WHEN EXPECTED OR A DIVER IS REPORTED MISSING, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE IS TO BE FOLLOWED*

1. The boat that the lost diver(s) entered the water from is to remain anchored if more than one boat is at the dive site.  
If necessary, buoy the area to identify the position.  
Place the buoy with a weight behind the lost diver's boat.
2. Position a look-out (as high as possible).
3. For a missing diver, question the Buddy, if available, and record the following detail;
  - Direction and strength of current
  - Dive plan
  - Place last seen
  - Time last seen
  - Status of air
  - Maximum depth planned and reached
  - Physical condition of lost diver
  - Lost diver's possible action in an emergency (eg prone to panic)

For a lost Buddy Pair, as much of the above detail as possible, should be determined in consultation with the Dive Leader, and other relevant divers and written down for later reference.
4. Assess the degree of urgency (overdue or long overdue, taking into account the diver's plan and previous repetitive dive profile if known).
5. Recall all divers in the water (currently, using three revs of the motor)
6. Organise personnel and equipment for search
  - Despatch one boat down current
  - Plan search with usual safety precautions considered - (Dangers – Depth – Time – Air)
7. **Radio for help**
  - Tune radio to channel 88 (27.88 MHz) or VHF channel 16
  - Say PAN-PAN-PAN (Danger is imminent)  
Or, if radio not available, phone ( **000** – Police ) for help
8. Liaise with other boats for thorough surface search.

*If you lose contact with your buddy under water, follow the Lost Buddy procedure.  
Search for them for not more than one minute, then surface.*