



SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA (Inc)

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

PLANNING A SAFE DIVE

(APPENDIX E)

When planning a dive, appoint a dive leader. The Dive Leader assumes responsibility for the planning and conduct of a programmed dive and the events directly related to or arising from that dive.

PRE-DIVE PLANNING

- Liaise with boat owners;
- Ensure Safety Equipment (e.g. First Aid and O₂) has been checked and is operational;
- Obtain weather forecast, tide data and any other relevant local information;
- Obtain local emergency numbers and hospital/medical centre locations.

ON SITE

- Ascertain local conditions;
- Ensure divers are in a fit state to dive (no hangovers, colds or medication);
- Allocate buddies, in conjunction with boat owners where required, ensuring less experienced divers are with experienced buddy;
- Provide dive brief, with particular attention to:
 - site details (depth, entry/exit, potential hazards)
 - communication (e.g. radio frequency, mobile phones, emergency) turnaround time
 - dive termination
 - lost buddy procedures
 - location of First Aid and O₂ equipment, dive gear and buddy checks

POST DIVE

- Collect all equipment;
- Ensure everyone is fit and well;
- Conduct post dive briefing and encourage divers to log the dive;

The Dive Leader should have the authority to;

- Cancel the dive on site if conditions are unfavourable/select alternative site.;
- Direct a member not to dive, if, in the Dive Leader's opinion, that member would present a danger to themselves or other divers;
- In the case of an emergency, liaise with/call out appropriate emergency or rescue services.

BUDDY CHECKS

- A Air**
 - Valve on & back ½ turn
 - Check that the Gauge reads **full**
 - Demand Valves working
- B Buoyancy**
 - B.C. Inflates & Deflates without fault
- C Clips**
 - Done up
 - Gauges, Regulators, Scuba-feed all accessible

DIVE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Advance Planning:

- Dive Buddy(s)
- Date & time (check tide tables)
- Dive Objective
- Location/Alternative
- Directions
- Meeting place & time
- Special/extra equip needed (especially Safety Equipment)
- Pre-check weather & water conditions

Preparation:

- Tank(s) filled
- Equipment marked (ID), inspected, packed
- Transport & local emergency contact info arranged
- Spare parts & weights + extra weights
- Brief info regarding new location

Last Minute:

- Healthy, rested, confident regarding dive
- Check weather & water conditions
- Final inventory of all items required
- Leave dive plan, times etc with non participant
- Pack towel, bathers sunscreen, hat,

On-Site:

- Evaluate diving conditions, weather etc
- Local telephone sighted
- Select entry/exit points, and alternatives
- Discuss Buddy systems & signals & checks
- Agree on dive time/depth limits (air consumption)

ENJOY THE DIVE
