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| HR<br>LF | HR<br>HF | <b>Massachusetts<br/>Fire District - 14</b><br>Dive Rescue Team Personal Protective Equipment<br>DRT 3300-18-008 | Effective Date<br>5/24/2026 |
| LR<br>LF | LR<br>HF |                                                                                                                  |                             |

## I) PURPOSE/SCOPE/APPLICATION

- A) To establish guidelines for the minimum selection of PPE to be used at all dive rescue incidents. Additional PPE for each type of dive rescue will be dictated by the SOG for that incident type.
- B) This Standard Operating Guideline will identify Personal Protective Equipment either issued by District 14, the members department or their personal PPE. The proper use and recording keeping associated with this PPE shall be the responsibility of the individual member.
- C) This SOG will be applied during all training and live Dive Rescue Team Activations

## II) REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- A) N/A

## III) DEFINITIONS

N/A

## IV) SPECIALIZED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A) All members shall be responsible for enforcing this SOG.

## V) SAFETY

- A) N/A

## VI) ENFORCEMENT

- A) Failure to understand this Standard Operating Guideline may result in disciplinary action.

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- B) Any deviation from this Standard Operating Guideline may require a written report to the Chief overseeing the team and/or the District 14 Chair.
- C) This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.

## **VII) STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

### **A) Required Equipment**

- 1) Each diver should have a fully encapsulated dry suit that is HAZMAT resistant with tear and puncture resistant boots. Permanently attached dry glove rings with replaceable wrist seals and gloves. Standard exhaust valve & standard inlet inflation valve, and an attached latex hood and neck seal.
- 2) A single bag constructed buoyancy compensator designed for open circuit use. With stainless steel D-rings, and overpressure relief/dump valves.
- 3) A full face positive pressure mask made of commercial grade silicone with high air flow capacity and low breathing resistance, a mouthpiece can be easily drained with a purge valve, an integrated nose block device, and accepts communication modules for hard wired high used system (purchased separately), and a gill valve.
- 4) Regulator diving set whose first stage is an environmental dry system keeps water out of the main spring chamber thus preventing ice buildup and keeping silt

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and contamination out, with a 2nd stage that is manufactured with active protection against infection as all molded parts are produced with an additive that kills MRSA, protects against E-Coli, bacteria and fungi, and should be effective against viruses, mold, yeast and algae.

- 5) A console with a compass, a depth and pressure gauges.
  - 6) 2 cutting tools capable of cutting fish line to rope.
  - 7) A harness with a locking carabineer.
  - 8) A set of fins.
- B) No team member will apply any stickers or other adhesive materials to their PPE without prior approval from their Department Representative, Team Leaders or The Operations Chiefs.
- C) All members are responsible for maintaining their personal equipment based on the manufacturers recommendations. Any equipment issues should be brought to the attention of the Department Representative and shall be addressed within a timely manner.
- D) Any damage to the equipment occurring through the proper use and maintenance will be covered by the respective departments should repairs or replacement be necessary
- E) Routine cleaning (light cleaning to remove soils and contaminants without taking the PPE out of service) will be accomplished as soon as possible following each training or emergency incident where the PPE has been used.
- F) The Dive Rescue Team Leader will determine the level of PPE that members will wear during dive rescues including as well as training evolutions

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- 1) All appropriate PPE shall be donned prior to entering the warm zone at any incident.
- 2) In the case of water rescue incidents, a PFD shall be worn whenever in the warm zone if not suited up to dive.
- 3) The “Warm Zone” shall be defined as any area within Ten (10) feet of the waters edge, or as otherwise determined.

#### VIII) RECORDS, REPORTS, CHARTS, FORMS

A) N/A

Sog Review Dates: