

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Region 10 Dive Training



Region 10 personnel enter the dive program through a periodic recruitment process available to permanent EPA employees located in Seattle, Washington. Selection factors for dive candidates include physical fitness, swimming ability, experience with field surveys, SCUBA certification level, and importance of diving to their present position. After a candidate is selected for a position on the Region 10 team, he or she must complete introductory level training to gain Working Diver certification. This initial and more advanced diver training are available from EPA and NOAA.

EPA Training

All EPA employees involved with on-the-job diving activities must be EPA-certified scientific divers. A one-week diver training program and certification are available through the EPA Diver Training Program located at the Gulf Ecology Division ORD lab in Gulf Breeze, FL. This training is given at no cost and is also available to state and local government divers. Sponsoring agencies must pay travel and per diem.

Training Topics: Diving Accident Management, Polluted Water Diving Awareness, Scientific Diver, Divemaster, Oxygen Administration, Drysuit Diving, Diving Accident Management, Hazardous Materials Training for Compressed Gas Handlers, and Nitrox I & II.

Contact: Jed Campbell, Training Director, EPA Diving Safety Board at: campbell.jed@epa.gov

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/ged/>

Location: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health & Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, 1 Sabine Island Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-5299 Telephone 904-934-9242 Fax 904-934-9201

Requirements: Each diver participating must be a proficient diver, have basic SCUBA certification, current CPR and First Aid training, completed 25 or more dives, and have a current physical examination per EPA diving regulations. Each diver should bring a complete dive dress for wet suit diving including all gauges, and undergarments to wear under a dry suit. SCUBA cylinders and dry suits are provided.

Certifications: Diving Accident Management; Working Diver & Divemaster for EPA divers; Working Diver & Divemaster-Equivalent for non-EPA personnel; Nitrox.

[Return to Region 10 Dive Unit Page Home](#)

NOAA Training

EPA, Region 10 divers usually receive 3-week working diver and 2-week divemaster training from the NOAA Diving Program. NOAA provides diver training on a nation-wide basis, but the main training facility is located in Seattle, WA. This training is also available to state and local government divers at a nominal fee (see website below for details). Sponsoring agencies must pay travel and per diem. This training meets or exceeds the training required to be an EPA scientific diver.

Training Topics: Working Diver, Divemaster, Diver Medical Technician, Visual Cylinder Inspection, Oxygen administration, First Aid, CPR and Nitrox I & II.

Contact: NOAA Dive Center Director, NOAA Diving Program

Website: www.ndc.noaa.gov/ 

Location: NOAA Diving Center NC4, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 Telephone 206-526-6196 Fax 206-526-6506

Requirements: Each student must have a current physical examination per NOAA diving regulations, swimming ability must be verified by the sponsoring agency, students must provide a mask, snorkel and undergarments to wear under a dry suit. Divemaster candidates need to bring foul weather gear for topside supervision sessions. NOAA issues all other dive gear to each student for the duration of training.

Certifications: NOAA-equivalent Working Diver & NOAA-equivalent Divemaster for non-NOAA personnel.

[Return to Region 10 Dive Unit Page Home](#)

First Aid Training

EPA Region 10 divers are required to maintain proficiency in first aid. This includes maintaining current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) certification through annual training and completing a comprehensive remote duty first aid training at least every three years. Other first aid training includes oxygen administration and diver rescue workshops. The remote duty first aid consists of a 2 to 3-day workshop, such as those taught by [NOLS](#). Topics covered include patient assessment, assessment and treatment of shock, injuries to the head, thermal injuries, heart attack, eye injuries, treatment of fractures, dislocations and sprains. Training includes hands-on exercises for treatment of traumatic injuries including treating open wounds. Other topics covered are oxygen therapy, near drowning, triage and medical evacuation. Specialty courses are also taken on occasion, including emergency dive accident management and dive rescue from non-governmental organizations, such as those taught at [USC](#)

[Dornslife at Wrigley.](#) 

[Return to Region 10 Dive Unit Page Home](#)



Chad Schulze practicing diver recovery.



Rob Pedersen and Lyn Frandsen practicing oxygen administration during a dive accident simulation.



Sean Sheldrake practicing CPR at USC Wrigley emergency response diver training.



USCG search and rescue helicopter participating in the USC Wrigley training.