

THE DIVE LINE



APRIL 2008

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PUBLIC SAFETY DIVER CERTIFICATIONS COMPLETE

CIUSR spent a weekend at Big Blue in Joplin Missouri finishing the final dive requirements for our ERDi certification. We have 10 divers who are now public safety diver certified to the ERDi (Emergency Response Diver International) standard. ERDi is an internationally recognized standard that is NFPA and OSHA compliant. Divers spend approximately four days in hands on water training and only one day in a classroom setting whereas other public safety diver certifications are classroom only. Topics such as problem solving, tender skills, search patterns and evidence handling are covered just to name a few. Dive skills include executing



search patterns, victim recovery and decontamination procedures among others.

We have more divers at various stages in their training and will continue to expand our skills.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our Gallery is now up and going! See pictures of our ice diving, Special Olympics and trip to Joplin. www.ciusr.org
- Q & A about Dogs and Divers (pg 2)



FROM THE TRAINING OFFICERS

Picking a certification is never an easy thing. TDI/SDI and ERDI offered us something that we could not find other places, being NFPA and OSHA compliant and hours of required hands on training.

Founded by Technical Diving International (TDI, the largest technical dive agency in the world) SDI has the unique advantage of seeing the recreational diving community through the experienced eyes of technical diving. Standards that ensure genuine diver safety while maximizing the pleasures of learning to dive are the foundation of SDI's diver training programs. SDI has re-examined limits that are arbitrary or based solely on tradi-

tion and developed new guidelines using scientific data and common sense. Divers can progress through SDI's recreational levels, than transition smoothly into technical diving with TDI and public safety diving with ERDI.

Getting the right training from a qualified instructor is key and public safety diving is not something that can be learned sitting in a classroom or from a recreational dive instructor. One of the reasons we chose ERDI for our standard is that even for the most basic certification level, our divers had to spend extensive time in the water, not in the classroom.

This allows us to provide law enforcement and emergency management

agencies with highly professional and qualified divers that can conduct a search safely and efficiently. Not to mention, it brings us in compliance with NIMS requirements.

We will continue to upgrade our training and have dives scheduled for every training session this summer. Anyone is welcome to come and dive with us or we'll come dive with you!

— The Training Officers



WATER SEARCH WITH DOGS — Q & A

Q: Will a water cadaver dog bite me?

A: No. They might accidentally bite you if you have their toy or training treats.

Q: Will they alert on animal remains?

A: A properly trained cadaver or water cadaver dog should not alert on animal remains.

Q: Why a cadaver dog?

A: Most water search dogs are either cadaver dogs or cross trained live find dogs. Cross trained dogs will find either live or dead human scent. It is commonly thought that the

switch from live scent to dead scent happens at about 12-24 hours (depending on water temp) .

Q: Will divers being in the water affect the dog?

A: Yes. Many, if not most, water search dogs are first taught to find divers in training. Your scent will cloud the picture and not allow the dog to appropriately locate the missing person if divers are in the same vicinity of the dog. However, depending on water current and wind direction, dogs and divers can work in the same body of water if planned and trained correctly.

Q: What dogs work best?

A: Dogs that like toys. Usually they are labs, border collies, german shepherds, Belgian malinois and golden retrievers.



FREEZIN' FOR A REASON WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

CIUSR once again provided safety for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge in Indianola and Coralville. Here are some fun pictures!

More pictures in our Gallery at www.ciusr.org/gallery.html



2008 CIUSR Training Calendar

- 05/18/08 – Public Relations and Incident Command Review/Dive training—0900—Owl Center, Saylorville Lake
- June 8 or 22, 2008 — River Rescue
- 07/20/08 — Mock Deployment
- 08/17/08 — Ballard Country Club Pond Survey—0900 (ERDi compliant for those who need it)
- 09/21/08 — Bradgate Quarry Dive/camping
- 10/19/08 — TBA
- 11/16/08 — State of Iowa Medical Examiner, Ankeny—DMACC Campus 0900
- 12/17/08 — Christmas Party—1000—Owl Center, Saylorville Lake

NEXT ISSUE: JULY 2008

Why we use dogs

If you have a suggestion on something you would like us to cover, send us a note at info@ciusr.org

<http://www.ciusr.org>

EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

Polk County Sheriff's Dispatch

515.286.3333 or 515.286.3322

CIUSR is available to emergency management agencies, law enforcement agencies and fire departments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Bryan Aller at (515)-238-8938 to set up a time for us to come talk to your department concerning CIUSR and how we may be of assistance to you.

CONTACT INFO

CIUSR

Polk County Sheriff's Office

206 6th Ave, Suite #112

Des Moines, IA 50309

515.286.3800

<http://www.ciusr.org>

CENTRAL IOWA
UNDERWATER
SEARCH & RESCUE

What we do

CIUSR provides highly trained professional volunteers to assist emergency management agencies, fire departments and law enforcement agencies in the case missing persons or items underwater. We will arrive on scene with fully trained and equipped divers, support personnel, canines and handlers. We come fully equipped to effectively and safely complete all underwater operations. We assist in the following situations:

- Swift Water Rescue
- Ice Rescue
- Evidence Retrieval
- Recovery

Where we respond

Our primary response area is Polk, Story, Dallas, Madison, Warren, Marion and Jasper counties. However, we are available for mutual aid all across the state of Iowa.

CIUSR Board Members include:

President: George McConeghy, Adel
(515)-249-2282

Vice President: Bryan Aller, St. Charles
(515)-238-8938

Secretary: Susan Aller, St. Charles
(515)-238-3971

Treasurer: Earnest Pettit, Osceola Police
Department

Training Officer: Bryan Gentner, Ames
(515)-291-3439

Training Officer Assistant: Ed Phillips,
Grimes (515)-986-2103

