



SCUBA DIVING/SNORKELING

Step 1: IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS: Let's look at the hazards associated with scuba diving/snorkeling:

- Currency
- Weather conditions
- Proper equipment
- Buddy system
- Proper rest
- Water conditions
 - Depth
 - Current
 - Temperature

Step 2: ASSESS THE RISK: Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

- Are you certified if needed
- Check weather prior to heading out (lightning, winds, storms)
- Tanks full, body suit in good condition
- Is your partner qualified
- Make sure your body is ready to handle the dive
- Have you dove in this area before
 - Are you certified to the depth
 - Are you familiar with the current shifts
 - Are wet suits available if needed

Step 3: MAKE RISK DECISIONS: Once you have identified the hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should develop risk control options. Start with the most serious risk first and select controls that will reduce the risk to a minimum consistent with mission accomplishment. Decide on some controls that can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

- Only dive if weather will be good

- Tanks will be completely full
- Dive with a partner

With selected controls in place, decide if the benefit outweighs the risk. If risk outweighs benefits or if assistance is required to implement controls, communicate with higher authority in the chain of command. You need to either accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk. Do not make dumb decisions.

Step 4: IMPLEMENT CONTROLS: Once you select appropriate controls, implement them! A plan is only good if it is followed.

Step 5: SUPERVISE: As always, the situation is subject to change quickly. Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control. Scuba Diving and Snorkeling are great ways to have fun and we all deserve a break every now and then. Use risk management to make diving/snorkeling experience memorable and safe. No one wants an outing to turn into a tragedy!

Member
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Date