



GENERAL ORDER

MINOCQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: **DIVE TEAM**

SCOPE: All Department Personnel
DISTRIBUTION: General Orders Manual

REFERENCE:

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INDEX AS: Dive Rescue/Recovery/Search
Dive Team
Ice Rescue/Recovery/Search
Underwater Rescue/Recovery/Search

PURPOSE: The purpose of this General Order is to establish the call up procedure for activation of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office (ONSO) Dive Team by the Minocqua Police Department.

This General Order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. POLICY
- II. DEFINITIONS
- III. ACTIVATION PROCEDURE
- IV. MUTUAL AID
- V. SELECTION FOR DIVE TEAM MEMBERS

I. POLICY

- A. It shall be the policy of the Minocqua Police Department to treat all water and ice related incidents within Minocqua as an emergency dive/rescue assignment, unless other information changes the emergency status.
- B. The Minocqua Police Department shall request the ONSO Dive Team for:
 1. Providing assistance in search and recovery operations.
 2. Providing assistance for the recovery of human bodies in the inland waters of the Town of Minocqua.

3. Conducting searches for other items which may be of evidentiary value in any investigation.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Water and Ice related Emergency – an incident in which a person or persons are in the water or have fallen through the ice into the water and immediate action is needed to rescue them to prevent death or serious injury. Also, when a vehicle/snowmobile/ATV is reported under the water and it is not known if the occupants are out of the water. Reports of a missing child near water shall also be treated as a water/ice related emergency.
- B. Emergency – A call to an active, current event.
- C. Non-Emergency – A call to a scene that is “after-the-fact” such as when information of a past crime is obtained.

II. ACTIVATION PROCEDURE

- A. The Chief of Police or designee shall be notified of an existing dive team situation. Approval for activation of the ONSO Dive Team will be the decision of the Chief or designee if time permits.
- B. In the event of a critical emergency and providing neither the Chief nor designee are able to be contacted, the Duty Command supervisor shall make the decision whether or not to activate the ONSO Dive Team. In the event the ONSO Dive Team is activated, the Chief will be notified as soon as possible.
- C. Upon approval of the activation of the ONSO Dive Team, the Duty Command supervisor will advise dispatch to contact the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office to request the ONSO Dive Team response for the Department. The Oneida County Sheriff’s Office will follow their protocol for activating the Dive Team and contacting their members to respond.
- D. The responsibilities of operational personnel prior to the arrival of the dive team include:
 1. Establish perimeter
 2. Maintain radio communications for all units
 3. Continue search/rescue efforts
 4. Consider staging area for resources such as EMS and additional units
- E. Coordination between the dive team and other operational units is the responsibility of the OIC/supervisor as outlined in Section II Activation Procedure, B.

III. MUTUAL AID

- A. Members of the Minocqua Police Department who are assigned to assist the ONSO Dive Team will assist that team when called out under Mutual Aid.

Minocqua Police Department officers who are assigned to assist the ONSO Dive Team will be under the direction of the ONSO Dive Team Commander.

Nothing in this section denies the Chief or designee ultimate supervision and control of members of Minocqua Police Department. Minocqua police officers assigned to the ONSO Dive Team may be recalled to active duty at any time.

IV. SELECTION OF DIVE TEAM MEMBERS

- A. Selection to be a member on the Oneida Dive Team will be determined by Oneida County Sheriff's Office. In the event the Oneida County Sheriff's Office chooses its Dive Team members multi-jurisdictionally, the Chief will post a notice seeking letters of interest from officers. The following criteria will be considered when the selection is made.
 - 1. Number of years of law enforcement/diving experience.
 - 1. Training and education.
 - 2. Department evaluations.
 - 3. Oral interview with department administration.
- B. The Chief of Police will make the selection and forward the name of that officer to the Commander of the Oneida County Dive Team. The Oneida County Dive Team will conduct their own review of that officer and determine if that officer will be accepted on the team.
- C. The Commander of the Oneida County Dive Team will set standards for team members such as for decision making, diving skills, physical fitness and attitude. The Commander of the Oneida County Dive Team may remove any officer from the team that he/she does not deem acceptable.

NOTE:

As of the implementation date of this General Order, the current Oneida County Dive Team consists of Oneida County Sheriff's Deputies and members from first responder agencies throughout Oneida County.

David J. Jaeger

David J. Jaeger
Chief of Police

This General Order cancels and supersedes any and all written directives relative to the subject matter contained herein.

Initial 05/08/2020