12. Underwater Crime Scene Ops

12.1 Introduction

This course is designed to provide information and hands on training to Certified Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T) officials, Coroners, Deputy Coroners, Certified Medico legal Investigators (ABMDI) and non-P.O.S.T. members to include, search and recovery dive personnel, rescue personnel who may respond to an in water evidence search or water related drowning. Evidence search may include items of interest or cadavers.

The purpose of the ERDI Underwater Crime Scene Investigations program is to provide necessary skills and knowledge in performing underwater crime scene investigations, preservation and proper documentation for court ready testimony.

12.2 Student Prerequisites

1. 18 years old
2. Should be an active member of a law enforcement investigation agency or emergency first response group.

12.3 Qualifications of Graduates

UWCSI courses are for law enforcement and emergency response personnel who may be first on the scene of a underwater crime scene investigation. Responders are expected to understand the constitution, responding, preparing the crime scene, death investigations, medical aspects, fingerprints, characteristics of bodies in water, recovery procedures, and court ready documentation.

12.4 Who May Teach

Any active ERDI Instructor who is qualified to teach the Underwater CSI program. To become qualified to teach this program an ERDI instructor must have completed three nationally sponsored UWCSI programs, or be an active medico legal death investigator, or be an active law enforcement death/crime scene investigator or have gone to an ERDI IT who is qualified to conduct the UWCSI program. The ERD UWCSI Instructor must also:

1. Have taken a minimum of 3 UWSCI courses
2. Be active with a law enforcement/investigations agency, coroner office, medico legal investigator
3. Actively attend state or nationally recognized death investigation programs, coroners conferences, medico legal death investigations conferences

12.5 Administrative Requirements

1. Have the students complete the:
    a. *ERDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
    b. *ERDI Medical History* Form
2. Communicate the schedule of the course to the students

3. Ensure that the students have the required equipment

Certification

Upon successful completion of an ERDI course the instructor must issue the appropriate ERDI certification by submitting the ERDI Diver Registration form to ERDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the ERDI website. Awareness level will receive a certificate upon completion if the online course was taken or a certificate can be requested if a traditional course was taken. Operations and Technician levels will receive a certification card and wall certificate

12.6   Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training

12.7   Course Structure and Duration

Course Structure

1. ERDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

Duration

1. Classroom and briefing: Approximately 16-24 hours

12.8   Required Manuals

The student must have the following equipment during all water training:

1. Approved textbook
2. Note taking material

The ERDI UWCSI Instructor must have the following equipment:

1. Textbook
2. Videos
3. Presentation to include power point
4. Crime scene investigation tools of the trade

12.9   Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:

1. The Constitution
   a. Bill of Rights

**ERDI Standards
and Procedures –
Ops Component
Standards**

Date: 01/01/2016
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    b. Fourth, fifth, sixth and 14th amendments

    c. Reasonable expectations of privacy

    d. Plainview doctrine

    e. Case studies

2. Terms and Definitions Used in Industry

3. Establish Crime Scene

4. Witness Interviewing

5. Types of Evidence

6. Methods Photographing and Sketching the Scene

7. Decomposition Processes

8. Death Investigation

9. Physiology of Drowning

10. Body Recovery, Reporting and Handling Procedures

11. Securing Evidence- Metal and Nonmetal Evidence Preservation

12. Packaging and Submitting Evidence

13. Scuba-Accident or Fatality Investigation

14. Fingerprint Analysis-Underwater Fingerprinting

15. Case Studies-911 Calls

16. Videos

17. Red Flags With Investigations

18. Develop Court Ready Documentation

19. Examination

12.10   Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

1. Written examination is required with an 80% passing grade, 100% remediation of exam.