

The Annual Public Safety Divers National Championship and Forum

Started in 1986 by the Florida Orange County Sheriff's Department to improve skills, knowledge, and team work amongst Florida's Police and Fire Rescue Dive Teams. It has since grown to include Public Dive Rescue and Recovery Teams from around the Nation.

Designed to present new skills and sharpen old ones, the Forum splits attendees into two groups that alternate between educational sessions and practical scenarios. The educational sessions are in a lecture/workshop format and provide up-to-date information on topics of interest to public safety divers.

During the practical training, participants are evaluated in simulated scenarios based on commonly required basic underwater search and recovery skills. These practical sessions are designed to be completed by teams composed of two divers. Special instruction is provided for novice teams. As these sessions are physically challenging, participants prepare themselves accordingly.

Overview of Practical Skills Exercises

Rescue Skills

- Race against the clock to properly don equipment.
- Rescue an unconscious diver on the surface.

Underwater Navigation

This exercise permits experienced teams to practice their proficiency and novice teams an opportunity to practice on a designated course.

Rigging Submerged Vehicle for Lift

Each team rigs a submerged vehicle for lift using two lift bags.

Anchor Point & Shore Sweep

Locate objects quickly and efficiently in poor visibility. Also gives each team the opportunity to practice teamwork and search line techniques.

Grid Search

Requires each team to effectively communicate and complete the search even in zero visibility conditions.

Underwater Obstacle Course

Coping with emergency situations and tasks under stress. Includes line handling, out-of-air emergency, decision making, and physical stamina.

Port Search Patterns

Efficiently locate, identify and isolate underwater devices that may be used to damage vessels, piers, or other structures in a port location.