

# Diver Safety Symposium

## Hazards & Emergency Response

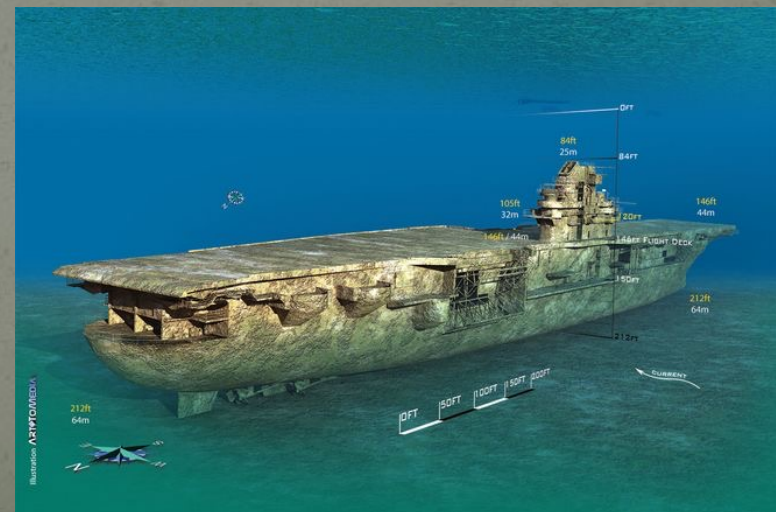


# MAC Diver Safety Symposium

- Protocols for DIVER SAFETY
  - BE PREPARED. Each diver is the person most responsible for their own safety!!!
  - Dive with your buddy & stay together.. If separated, you are unable to help each other
- Never let your diving exceed your training
  - Factor all conditions into the dive plan. Weather, water temp's, exertion, fatigue, dehydration & saturation level
- Simple motto:
  - Plan your Dive, Dive your plan. File your plan, and have emergency action plan shared with team.

# Diving Hazards

- Biological
  - Animals & Corals
- Physical
  - Depth & Current
  - Medical/overexertion
- Human Error
  - Out-of-Air, Getting lost, equipment failure
- Wreck Specific
  - Oriskany, depth-current-navigation
  - Antares, depth & size
  - Tenneco, entanglement
  - Avocet, current
  - Timber holes, navigation





# In the event of an emergency

The Coast Guard is America's maritime first responder.

“Semper Paratus”, Always Ready....

- Call USCG directly on marine VHF channel 16 and declare your emergency. Channel 16 VHF (156.8 MHz) is a marine VHF radio frequency designated as **an international distress frequency**.
- Each situation requires an specific emergency response:
  - Follow directive of USCG personnel, they will direct you to best location based on factors in the incident and deploy proper Rescue/EMT/Paramedics to meet or assist.
  - Be clear & concise in describing the incident and ongoing treatment. Is diver on O<sub>2</sub>, conscious, difficulty breathing or physically injured or known medical history or concerns?
  - Continually monitor injured diver for symptoms of stress, physical injury, medical illness or DCS & relay to medical personnel



# Supporting the USCG

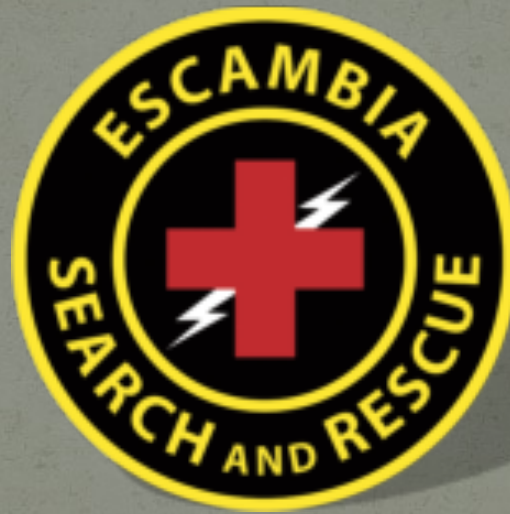


- If inshore and/or no VHF 16 availability, Call **911** by cell to declare the emergency. 911 dispatchers ask a similar series of questions to determine best emergency medical response. 911 will dispatch Fire/Rescue assets if appropriate then immediately contact USCG & FWC response assets
- The USCG have jurisdiction over emergency response efforts but the FWC & others stand ready to assist as requested with rescue vessels that may already be on patrol in Gulf waters that can assist or transport an injured diver

# Lost/Overdue Diver

- Place buoy at last known location & capture GPS
- Contact USCG immediately
- Note dive conditions, depth, current, visibility & time diver entered the water.
- Ask Dive buddy if visible problems or signs of distress
- Request assistance of vessels in area to assist in surface search
- Try to verify if diver has been picked up by another vessel
- Diver can Utilize:  
Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon/Personal Locator Beacon , Surface Marker Buoy, Mirror & whistle to help responders locate them

Be ready, remain calm, and avoid panic  
in any emergency situation, it can be  
the difference between life and death.



Questions and Discussion