

MINIMIZE EXPOSURE THROUGH PRE-DIVE PREPARATION

SPECIAL NOTE: The following information is taken from DUI's Exposure Protection for Public Safety Divers Presentation. Diving in contaminated water is a complicated issue and requires specialized training. No diver should attempt diving in contaminated water without this training.

Dive teams can minimize exposure to contaminants by taking a few simple steps.

1. Limit the number of personnel to only those actually needed to run the operation.
2. Prep the equipment to make decontamination easier by wetting the outside of the drysuit, BCD, etc. with water, and, depending on the type of contamination, a cleaning solution such as Simple Green. By saturating the outer layer of the suit and other materials, the absorption of a contaminant into the material will be minimized thus making it easier to decontaminate. This will work for all materials that might absorb a contaminant such as drysuits, BCs, regulator hoses etc.
3. Dive teams should also consider using a ROV for search patterns in contaminated water. Often, an ROV can lead the team to the object or body, and thus minimize the length of exposure for the dive team.

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