

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVING WITH NAUI

FOURTH QUARTER 2017

SOURCES

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Directors member Jeffrey Hansler (NAUI 5834).

Participants learn gear configurations for accident prevention and management, practice realistic in-water victim retrieval and transport, apply first aid for bleeding trauma, perform surface cylinder power swims, learn to conduct professional field neurological exams for gas bubble injuries, safely extricate unconscious or injured divers onto vessels, perform basic life support while underway in rough seas, conduct reliable dive gear checks, and much more.

Through discussion, role-playing and hands-on practice, participants actively engage in identifying commonly taught rescue procedures that work better in books than in the real world, leading to a thorough understanding of which procedures really work and why. By the end of the course, participants possess the knowledge and skills to become competent rescue leaders. The program is for experienced divers, dive leaders and professional rescue workers, including fire and rescue, military, Coast Guard, fisheries and law enforcement personnel.

“Our sport has risks that I believe divers are not exposed to in a realistic fashion. The Leadership Rescue Diver

course delivered a shocking reality that we really need to consider commonly accepted equipment configurations, first-response techniques, and our own physical abilities and limitations to react to and manage rescue situations in order to provide care that will give victims the best chance of recovery or survival,” said South Florida Regional Manager Andy Olday (NAUI 58352).

The next NAUI and Team Lifeguard Systems Leadership Rescue Diver course will be held in this no-name city and state on this day and month and year. Stay tuned to the NAUI Events page (nauai.org/events) for registration information and additional upcoming training events. Or attend one of the NAUI-sponsored seminars and workshops being presented by Butch Hendrick and LGS at DEMA Show in Orlando, Florida, November 1-4, 2017. For full descriptions and registration information, visit nauai.org/events/dema-show-2017.

Special thanks to Butch Hendrick and Andrea Zaferes of Team Lifeguard Systems Inc. for sharing their expertise and consulting with NAUI Headquarters for this article. For more information, visit teamlgs.com and read the feature article on page 56 in this issue of *Sources*.



Be sure to check out future issues of *Sources* for the new Leadership Rescue column contributed by NAUI and LGS Leadership Rescue Diver course leaders. Enjoy “Making a Case for the Left” as a sample of what’s to come.

Making a Case for the Left

We’re not talking about politics here, but for some, proper alternate regulator placement may be just as divisive. The question is why does almost every agency teach that the octopus must be worn on the right side? NAUI standards do not dictate where the “additional regulator second stage [octopus]” will be worn, but only that it will be worn. In fact, integrated low-pressure inflator/regulator second stages are worn on the left. So isn’t it time we think about an alternative configuration that may, in fact, be easier and safer?

Below are some things to consider when evaluating the right-side versus left-side alternate air source (octopus) configuration based on the standard 100-centimeter (40-inch) hose length.

Right-side alternate air source:

- 1) With right-side placement, the hose must be twisted into a tight “S” to position the regulator in the receiver’s mouth. If passed over without the twist, it will be upside down.
- 2) With right-side placement, the comfortable position of the receiver will be to the donor’s side. The most effective donor-to-receiver position is face-to-face. Face-to-face allows for good eye contact and better donor control. The tight “S” hose for face-to-face contact is more likely to pull the regulator from the receiver’s mouth.
- 3) With right-side placement, the donor’s only free hand is the left, and the donor must reach across the receiver’s body to reach the low-pressure inflator hose.
- 4) With right-side placement, the donor must use the left hand to release weight belts, contrary to what many

agencies teach about wearing a right-hand-release weight belt.

- 5) With right-side placement, the donor’s grip on the regulator is weaker and provides limited control. While this may be all right in training scenarios, in a real assist, the lack of a powerful grip could be detrimental for the receiver or donor.

Left-side alternate air source:

- 1) With left-side placement, a more natural and stronger hand grip gives the donor more control; the donor can also easily tap the purge button to clear the regulator.
- 2) With left-side placement, the donor’s free (right) hand is directly across from the receiver’s low-pressure inflator hose and easily reached.
- 3) With left-side placement, the donor’s free (right) hand can easily remove both the receiver’s and the donor’s own weight systems or open a right-hand weight belt release.
- 4) With left-side placement, both the donor and receiver are in good body position, face-to-face with direct eye contact.
- 5) With left-side placement, the alternate air source will automatically be delivered in an upright orientation that is natural.

Still not convinced? Here’s a challenge. Get together with some of your fellow dive leaders for a confined-water practice session, run through some realistic out-of-air drills using both right- and left-sided configurations, and then discuss what you found. Remember that the alternate air source is not there as a backup second stage; it’s there to assist your buddy. Is it in a position that provides the best response in the event it’s needed? Learn more about the benefits of the left-sided octopus, other gear configuration, and essential rescue skills that all leaders should be capable of performing during the next Leadership Rescue Diver course.



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