11. Rescue Diver

11.1 Introduction

The rescue certification course is designed to develop the knowledge and necessary skills for an individual to effectively perform diver rescues and assists, and administer necessary first aid.

11.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates:

1. Are able to conduct rescues for divers in distress
2. Are qualified to enroll in:
    a. The SDI Master Diver Program
    b. The SDI Divemaster Course

11.3 Who May Teach

An active *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* Instructor

11.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

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

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 10 students per instructor
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 additional students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor or divemaster. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor are allowed; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor or divemaster. Although additional assistants may be used, no additional students may be added

11.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent
2. Provide proof of current CPR, first aid and oxygen (O_2) provider (where local law permits) certification*
3. Provide proof of SDI Advanced Adventure Diver certification, SDI Junior Advanced Adventure certification, or equivalent, or open water diver certification and 40 logged open water dives
4. Divers under age 15 may earn the Junior Rescue Diver certification

*Note: CPR, first aid and oxygen provider courses may be combined with the rescue program by qualified instructors.

11.6 Course Structure and Duration

Course Structure

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

Duration

1. The suggested number of training hours is 12
2. Of the suggested 12 hours, 8 of the suggested hours should be performed in open water conditions

11.7 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
    a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
    b. *SDI Medical Statement* Form

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the SDI Diver Registration form to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website

11.8 Training Material

Required Materials:

1. *SDI Rescue Diver* Manual (or *SDI Rescue Diver* Online Training course)
2. *SDI Rescue Diver* K.Q. Review
3. *SDI Rescue Diver* Instructor Guide

Optional Material

1. *SDI Rescue Diver* PowerPoint Presentation
2. *SDI Rescue Diver* Slates
3. *SDI Rescue Diver* Instructor Slates

11.9 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section two of this manual, with the addition of a cutting device.

11.10 Required Subject Areas

The SDI Rescue Diver Manual is required for this course. Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered during this course:

1. Prevention and Causes of Diving Accidents
   a. Stress and psychological factors i.e. the panic syndrome in self and others
   b. Physical conditioning
   c. Equipment
   d. Surface drowning syndrome
2. Diving Lifesaving
   a. Self rescue
   b. Diver assists
   c. Surface and underwater rescues
   d. Types of transports
   e. In-water artificial respiration
   f. Boat and shore exit techniques
   g. Diver first aid
   h. Review of oxygen (O_2) administration
3. Hyperbaric Injuries and Management
   a. Information collection
   b. Access to hyperbaric chambers

4. Accident Management
    a. Access to emergency transport/assistance
    b. Accident reporting
    c. Liability and related legal considerations

11.11 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Instructors are required to teach and evaluate all the following skills

1. On the surface identify and assist a properly equipped skin or scuba diver simulating:
    a. Breathing difficulties
    b. Tiredness
    c. Leg cramp
    d. Early panic symptoms
2. Locate and bring to the surface a scuba diver simulating unconsciousness to the surface from approximately 6 metres / 20 feet
3. Upon surfacing, transport the unconscious diver 50 metres / 150 feet to shore or boat, simulating in-water rescue breathing
4. Upon reaching the shore or boat, with the assistance of 1 aide, remove the diver from the water

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive emergency planning and execution
2. Complete all open water requirements safely and efficiently
3. Satisfactorily complete the *SDI Rescue Diver* Knowledge Quest or eLearning.