



Risk Assessment	
Activity: Scuba Diving	
Location: Generic	(under 20m)

Assessment Undertaken:
Britney Ireland

Assessment Review Last:

Hazard	Persons	Severity	Likelihood	Risk	Preventive Measures	Emergency Action Plan
Mask squeeze	Trainees	2	1	Insignificant	Trainees receive specific instruction in mask equalisation.	Assistance from instructor.
Injury from falling cylinders	Trainees	2	1	Insignificant	Trainees taught to lay heavy equipment down. Continual monitoring by instructor.	First aid given if required. If EMS are called follow EAP, page 13.
Heart attack	All	5	1	Low	Medically declared referral.	Secure group and casualty. First aid given to preserve life. Call EMS & follow EAP, page 13.
Entanglement in underwater obstructions	All	5	1	Low	Instructor to carry appropriate cutting implement, such as filament knife etc. Instructor control.	Assistance from buddy or group instructor.
Trips and slips	All	2	2	Low	No running on site. Make all users aware of any potential hazards.	First aid given if required. If EMS are called follow EAP, page 13.
Contact with dive boat / propeller	All	5	1	Low	Only trained coxswains allowed to operate boats. Trainees receive specific instruction in boat exit / entry techniques. All exit from and entry to boats controlled by coxswain.	First Aid kit on boat. Boat crew trained in First Aid.

Injury from other boats	All	5	1	Low	Flag 'Alpha' flown while divers are underwater. Monitoring of other surface traffic by boat cover. Divers marked by SMBs or ascending under DSMBs.	First Aid kit on boat. Boat crew trained in First Aid.
Current	All	1	3	Low	Dive starts into current, constant lookout established, surface buoy, monitor air consumption and fatigue throughout dive, surface support vessel available.	Each diver carries aids to visual detection – e.g. flags, sausage buoys, strobes, flares, whistles etc.
Ear damage	All	3	2	Moderate	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. No diving when suffering with a cold or flu.	Assistance from instructor.
Decompression illness	All	4	2	Moderate	Dives planned and conducted in accordance with BSAC 88 decompression tables or decompression computer. All divers equipped with depth gauges and watches and / or decompression computers.	Oxygen administration equipment and trained administrators on site.
Nitrogen Narcosis	All	4	2	Moderate	Dives will not exceed 20 m. Nitrogen Narcosis is not usually noticeable at depths less than 30m.	Assistance from Instructor / buddy.
Running out of air	All	5	2	High	All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Continual monitoring by instructor and ratios in accordance with BSAC.	Assistance from instructor.

Rapid ascent	All	5	2	High	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Continual monitoring by instructor and ratios in accordance with BSAC. Visual datum used for ascent exercises where appropriate.	Diving monitored by shore / boat cover able to provide / direct assistance. Oxygen administration equipment and trained administrators on site.
Diver separation	All	5	2	High	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times. Contact maintained throughout the dive. Strobes or buddy lines to be carried.	Divers to surface immediately. Establish contact. Render assistance required. First aid given if required. If EMS are called follow EAP, page 6.
Reduced underwater visibility	All	3	3	High	Diver numbers in water to be controlled and monitored. Divers to carry strobes and buddy lines on all dives.	Strobes and buddy lines to be used in the event of the onset of reduced visibility. Dive to be abandoned in the event of adverse reduced visibility. Divers to surface and exit. Dive manager
Separation from boat while drift diving	All	5	2	High	Dive plan agreed with boat Coxswain. All dive pairs follow same plan. All dive pairs marked by Surface Marker Buoy.	Each diver carries aids to visual detection – e.g. flags, sausage buoys, strobes, flares, whistles etc.
Deteriorating weather	All	4	3	High	Diving planned using latest weather information. Alternative site planned. Weather conditions constantly monitored by Dive Manager / coxswain during diving. Diver recall mechanism available (e.g. signals via SMB line. Thunderflashes)	Diving cancelled or changed to back-up site by Dive Manager. Diving in progress terminated using diver recall mechanism. Boat intentions and appropriate times notified to Coastguard prior to departure. Updated if plans are changed.