



REEF LIFE SURVEY FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER DIVER SAFETY MANUAL

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Reef Life Survey Foundation Incorporated (RLSF) is an association of volunteer SCUBA divers who are trained in visual census survey methods for coral and rocky reef habitats, and collect data useful for scientific and management purposes. RLSF holds training sessions and survey expeditions for members, who collect data in their own time for later use by scientists.
- 1.2 This manual sets out requirements and recommendations for the activities of volunteers, who are current, financial members of RLSF, when diving specifically for RLSF purposes. It is based on recommendations from Safe Work Australia, with particular regard to volunteer organisations and reasonable care by RLSF to promote health and safety of RLSF volunteers while maintaining high data quality standards.
- 1.3 RLSF is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based incorporated association which is run by volunteers. It has no paid employees and is therefore not considered to be a *Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU)* for the purposes of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)* (WHS Act). However, RLSF has the safety of its members as its highest priority and has drafted this manual to assist volunteers in ensuring their safety. All members are expected to adhere to this manual for their own safety and that of their fellow divers.
- 1.4 This manual is intended to apply to all RLS volunteer divers, as defined below. Divers conducting RLS surveys in other countries who do not meet this definition (e.g. not financial members of RLSF) may find this manual useful.

2 Terms and definitions

- 2.1 The following terms and definitions apply in the context of this manual:

Dive activity – a SCUBA or snorkel dive that involves collecting data to be provided to the RLSF undertaken by an RLS-trained volunteer diver(s) as defined below. The dive normally comprises conducting a survey following the *RLS Standardised Survey Procedures for Monitoring Rocky & Coral Reef Ecological Communities (Methods Manual, as amended from time to time)*. When these conditions are met, a dive activity is considered an authorised activity.

Dive or diving – indicates use of open circuit self contained underwater breathing apparatus, using air or nitrox; and snorkelling. While many of the procedures in this manual would also apply to closed circuit or rebreather operation, this manual is not intended to cover all the safety management practices that use of this equipment would entail when conducting notified dives.

Near miss – an unplanned incident or accident that temporarily creates an unacceptable safety risk or hazard, has the potential to cause injury, or endangers life; but does not result in injury or affect completion of the task or cause substantial damage to equipment or the environment.

Notifiable accident/incident – an unplanned incident or accident that results in injury or death, or adversely affects completion of the task, or results in substantial damage to equipment or the environment; whether occurring above or underwater.

Shall – indicates a mandatory requirement.

Sheltered conditions - when all the following conditions apply:

- a) depth < 12 metres
- b) visibility > 4 metres
- c) wave height < 1 metre
- d) current nil to slight
- e) third party assistance is readily available in an emergency
- f) the dive activity is conducted in daylight hours.

Should or **recommend(ed)** – indicates a requirement that divers are strongly encouraged to follow, but is not mandatory.

Team dive activity – an RLSF dive activity comprising 4 or more volunteers.

Volunteer diver – a volunteer diver with qualifications as outlined in Clause 4.1, including supplying information annually where required and being a current financial member of RLSF.

3 RLSF responsibilities

3.1 RLSF shall:

- a) implement and maintain a safety management process in consultation with its members and stakeholders, to facilitate good health and safety practices of its members, as far as reasonably practicable
- b) make members aware of their health and safety responsibilities as outlined in this manual and associated forms
- c) consider recommendations made by its Safety Subcommittee and the RLSF Advisory Committee, and where necessary, take appropriate action, including the amendment of this manual if required
- d) review safety management practices and procedures contained in this manual and associated forms at least every two years
- e) where practicable, consult with members about recommended changes to safety practices and procedures before implementing the changes
- f) notify all members of any changes to this manual in a timely manner
- g) when a notified incident or near miss is reported (see *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form* – Appendix 3), ensure that the Safety Subcommittee and the RLSF Advisory Committee review the incident or near miss and make appropriate recommendations.

- 3.2 RLSF shall maintain any personal information it collects (e.g. certain information contained in completed versions of referenced forms) in accordance with relevant privacy laws.

4 Certification and competency of volunteers

- 4.1 Volunteer divers shall not participate in dive activities unless they:
- a) hold an advanced open water dive qualification by a body recognised in Australia. Volunteer divers should consider obtaining a rescue diver certification, and RLSF will endeavour to offer this training to divers at minimal cost.
 - b) have logged a minimum of 50 dives, with at least 10 dives in the past year
 - c) have, within the previous 12 months, completed, signed and delivered to RLSF, the organisation's *Indemnity and waiver of responsibility form*
 - d) have, within the previous 12 months, delivered to RLSF a current medical certificate stating fitness to dive, or a signed *Declaration of Medical Fitness*
 - e) are over 18 years of age.
- 4.2 It is highly recommended that all volunteer divers:
- a) remain within depth limitations as defined by their training and/or experience.
 - b) consider obtaining oxygen provider, first aid and rescue certification
 - c) have a certificate of medical fitness to dive issued by a registered medical practitioner with appropriate training in underwater medicine within the previous 12 months certifying their fitness to dive
 - d) maintain all their SCUBA diving equipment in serviceable condition according to manufacturer's recommendations for inspection and service (applicable for tanks, regulator stages and hoses, and buoyancy compensating devices)
 - e) consider becoming a member of the Divers Alert Network (DAN), or obtain equivalent cover from another provider, and consider taking out additional diving insurance as may be required
 - f) maintain a dive log. Ideally, this should include the following information:
 - name of diver, buddy and other dive team members
 - date, time of dive and location
 - general outline of surveys conducted and particular tasks undertaken
 - surface and underwater conditions including current and visibility
 - maximum depth, bottom time and for repetitive dives, the surface interval
 - diving tables or computer used
 - details of any near misses, potential or actual incidents
 - g) be prepared to forward completed log sheets to RLSF on request
 - h) adhere to the buddy system as taught in their dive training. This is based upon mutual assistance, especially in an emergency. Details of how RLS surveys can safely be undertaken by a functioning buddy pair are provided in the full RLS methods manual, which can be found on the RLS website.
- 4.3 Volunteer divers who only have advanced open water qualifications should consider undertaking further dive training, such as Rescue Diver or Scientific Diver, to improve their underwater skills.

5 Health, fitness and first aid

- 5.1 All volunteer divers who have successfully passed an annual diving medical examination and/or signed a medical declaration of fitness are generally considered fit to dive; however the physical ability of a volunteer to take part in the planned dive activity can only be determined by that volunteer, on the day of the dive activity.
- 5.2 Volunteer divers shall ensure they are fit to dive immediately prior to the dive activity, and if in doubt, they shall not take part in the dive activities.
- 5.3 Volunteer divers shall notify their buddy of any medical condition or injury that may have occurred since their last medical, and which would increase their level of risk if they undertook dive activities.
- 5.4 A dive team may refuse to include any volunteer diver as a member of the dive team at any time, if the volunteer's physiological or psychological state has been altered, or appears to have been altered, by illness, fatigue, injury, intoxication, or loss of coordination from the effects of prescription drugs or other substances.
- 5.5 Volunteer divers shall not dive for the duration of any known condition that is likely to adversely affect their safety or health, or that of co-divers.
- 5.6 All volunteer divers should maintain their dive fitness by regular exercise and regular diving. For diver safety, it is recommended that qualifications (including oxygen provision and First Aid training) are kept current.

6 Potential environmental risks

- 6.1 While undertaking surveys, the potential dangers of hazardous marine life should be managed through:
 - a) identifying key local contacts and discussing applicable hazards and site conditions
 - b) following accepted regional standard practices for SCUBA diving in areas where the risk posed by sharks is considered higher than usual. This includes knowing times and locations associated with shark aggregation, seasonal fish migrations, seal colonies and pupping season, and fishing activities that attract sharks (e.g. chumming)
 - c) knowledge of local marine life that may sting or otherwise injure divers and first aid associated with injuries
 - d) not touching the seabed unless it is clear there is no hazardous or fragile marine life in the vicinity
 - e) identifying and discussing the accepted regional standard practices for SCUBA diving in the area, such as risk controls used by local occupational dive teams
 - f) re-assessing the dive plan, and altering if required (including moving to an alternative location)
 - g) having an agreed, understood recall system for identified applicable risks.

7 Dive planning and record keeping

- 7.1 Dive activities must be carried out according to this manual. Many locations are remote from search and rescue and medical or recompression facilities; and risk assessment and planning of any proposed dive activity must take this into account.
- 7.2 Dive teams should consider appointing an informal dive leader to manage the dive activity; usually the diver most experienced and familiar with the area.
- 7.4 It is strongly recommended that dive teams put together a dive-plan for each diving day, as taught in all diver training courses. All divers should have a full understanding of the plan and follow this to the extent it remains safe to do so.
- 7.5 All volunteers planning to take part in any dive activity shall have submitted a *RLSF Volunteer Diver Registration Form* that has been checked and endorsed by RLSF to indicate that the volunteer meets the competency requirements in Clause 4.1 above.
- 7.6 Best practices would see dive teams conducting a site hazard inspection on arrival at the proposed dive site before the dive activity begins. See example in Appendix 4 for *RLSF Site Assessment and Diver Log*, which includes a dive assessment matrix that can be used.
- 7.7 Dive teams should monitor site and environmental conditions and cancel, postpone or change the location of the proposed dive if the total score from completing the dive assessment matrix exceeds 19. Dive teams shall consider the factors of *Age* and *Fitness to dive* as creating a conservative buffer.

8 Dive activity procedures

- 8.1 The decision to dive is that of the volunteer diver, and the volunteer should not dive if, in their judgement, conditions are unsafe or unfavourable, or if they would be violating the precepts of their dive training.
- 8.2 All dive activities should be planned around the competency of the least experienced volunteer diver in any dive team.
- 8.3 Dive activities shall not include night dives or dives with planned decompression stops other than a precautionary safety stop at the end of each dive.
- 8.4 Volunteer divers should perform gear and dive buddy checks before every dive activity.
- 8.5 Volunteer divers shall meet accepted recreational SCUBA community standards for minimum dive equipment. This should include a spare second stage regulator commonly known as an octopus regulator or a second stage regulator incorporated into the oral inflation hose of the buoyancy compensator.
- 8.6 Volunteer divers shall carry an inflatable Surface Marker Buoy (SMB or “safety sausage”) and whistle for use in an emergency or to provide a visual reference while on the surface. Divers should practice using their Surface Marker Buoy regularly to maintain proficiency in its deployment and to ensure it is in good working order.
- 8.7 Volunteer divers have the right and responsibility to terminate the dive activity at any time during the dive if they feel it is unsafe to continue the dive activity, ensuring consideration of whether termination of the dive compromises the safety of another co-diver already in the water.

- 8.8 All volunteer divers should follow all dive safety and planning procedures as taught in all open water diver training programs. See Appendix 1 - *Best Diving Practices Guidelines*.

9 Accident/Incident reporting and management

- 9.1 Dive teams shall report notifiable incidents verbally as soon as practicable to RLSF, and subsequently in writing to the RLSF Safety Subcommittee, using the *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form* (Appendix 3).
- 9.2 Dive teams shall ensure that a member of the team shall also report near misses to RLSF on return from the activity, using the *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form*.
- 9.3 As soon as practicable after a notifiable incident, or if possible during management of an incident, the dive team shall ensure that someone takes notes relating to the incident. It is important that accurate details of the incident are recorded to satisfactorily complete the *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form* (Appendix 3) at a more appropriate time.
- 9.4 The RLSF Safety Subcommittee shall review and investigate all notifiable incidents and near misses reported on *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Forms* or otherwise made known to the Subcommittee.
- 9.5 As part of its review, the RLSF Safety Subcommittee may interview the nominated dive leader and other volunteers involved, to determine the causes of the notifiable incident or near miss and any actions that can be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident or the near miss. The discussion should cover issues such as the adequacy of dive planning, risk assessment and preparation for the dive; details of the incident and how it was managed; and any lessons learned that could enhance safety on future dives by volunteers.
- 9.6 The RLSF Safety Subcommittee shall keep records of its review of each incident and near miss. It shall also maintain a *Register of Notifiable Incidents and Near Misses*, and produce an annual summary for consideration by the RLSF Advisory Committee.

10 Emergency action and deviations from this manual

- 10.1 Any volunteer diver may deviate from the requirements of this manual to the extent necessary to prevent or minimise any harm or a potential notifiable incident.
- 10.2 It is the responsibility of each volunteer when administering care or assistance to an injured person that they act in good faith, only provide care that is within the scope of their first aid training, and act as a prudent person would in the circumstances.
- 10.3 General emergency procedures should follow basic first aid criteria (the exact order of these will vary with the incident, and the resources available. Read RLSF Emergency Flowchart (Appendix 5):
- a) seek medical / rescue assistance
 - b) “rescuer” must not put themselves in danger
 - c) remove casualty from danger if safe to do so
 - d) maintain airway, administer 100% oxygen

- e) administer first aid.
- 10.4 During shore dive activities:
- a) if a diver shows signs or symptoms of decompression illness or has had ANY ABNORMAL ASCENT (missed decompression stops or fast ascents) - place casualty on 100% oxygen immediately and seek medical advice immediately
 - b) if casualty is unconscious, call an ambulance (000) first, then contact Divers Emergency Service (1800 088 200 within Australia or 61 8 8212 9242 outside of Australia)
 - c) if casualty is conscious, contact Divers Emergency Service (1800 088 200 within Australia or 61 8 8212 9242 outside of Australia) and follow instructions
 - d) Rescue Divers and those with more advanced rescue and/or first aid qualifications should manage the incident
 - e) begin to record the diving incident as soon as practicable after the incident; or during management of the incident if possible.
- 10.5 During boat dive activities:
- a) if a diver shows signs or symptoms of decompression illness or has had ANY ABNORMAL ASCENT (i.e. rapid ascent), place casualty on 100% oxygen immediately and request advice/assistance
 - b) Contact: Marine Rescue on VHF Ch16 and follow instructions, or mobile phone, following actions in Section 10.4 a) to c). If phone is not answered then proceed to nearest safe haven and repeatedly try to contact Coastguard (marine radio or phone).
- 10.6 Volunteer divers are responsible for ensuring that they have appropriate safety equipment for any team dive activity. At a minimum this should include:
- a) first aid kit
 - b) medical grade oxygen cylinder and oxygen administration kit (ensure that enough oxygen is available to transport diver to emergency services, or until emergency services arrive)
 - c) VHF radio (where appropriate for a boat dive)
 - d) flares, EPIRB, PFD's (boat dive)
 - e) knowledge of nearest emergency phone and/or possession of a mobile phone.
- 10.7 If a volunteer diver has to be evacuated to a hospital or hyperbaric chamber, he or she should where possible, be accompanied by their buddy, or another diver not in need of treatment. The destination shall be noted and recorded for entry on the *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form* (Appendix 3). If this is not possible, then the buddy of the evacuated diver shall ensure that they have a record of where the casualty goes.
- 10.8 Post incident:
- a) Notify RLSF safety subcommittee via phone.
 - b) *RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form* (Appendix 3) to be completed and forwarded to RLSF within 1 week of the incident.
 - c) Encourage diver to report incident to DAN.

11. Forms and documents referred to in this manual

11.1 The latest versions of the following forms and documents are available via links on the RLSF website:

- a) DAN Incident Report Form
- b) DCIEM tables
- c) *Minimum Delay before Exposure to Altitude*
- d) *Register of Notifiable Incidents and Near Misses*
- e) *RLSF Declaration of Medical Fitness*
- f) *RLSF Indemnity and Waiver of Responsibility Form*
- g) *RLS Standardised Survey Procedures For Monitoring Rocky & Coral Reef Ecological Communities (Methods Manual as amended from time to time)*
- h) *RLSF Volunteer Diver Registration Form.*

11.2 The following documents/forms are appended to this manual:

- a) *Best diving practice guidelines (Appendix 1)*
- b) *Sample RLSF Dive Activity Plan (Appendix 2)*
- c) *Sample RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form (Appendix 3)*
- d) *Sample RLSF Site Assessment and Diver Log (Appendix 4)*
- e) *RLSF Emergency Flowchart (Appendix 5)*

Version History

Version Number	Date changed	Modified by	Details and comments
1	26 April 2016	A Cooper	New RLSF Safety Manual to provide guidelines to the organisation's volunteers
2	8 May 2018	A Cooper	Change 8.6 safety marker buoy (SMB) and whistle from shall to should (mandatory) on RLSF safety subcommittee recommendation Change to 1.3 to removed sentence 'It (RLSF) therefore does not have a duty of care for health and safety of volunteers conducting volunteer diving under this Act' . This is outlined in the listed Act . Change to appendices - removed 'sample' from Appendices 2, 3 & 4

Appendix 1. Best Diving Practice Guidelines*

- A1.1 Divers should terminate the dive while there is still sufficient cylinder pressure to permit them to safely reach the surface and return to shore or boat, including allowing for any decompression time or planned safety stops.
- A1.2 The dive team should not include a diver who for any reason is not physically or psychologically fit at the time of the dive; or whose dive equipment is not in a safe operating condition in the opinion of the nominated dive leader.
- A1.3 All dives, including repetitive dives, should preferably be calculated using DCIEM tables (Canadian Defence and Civil Institute for Environmental Medicine), but the use of well-maintained dive computers is acceptable.
- A1.4 Divers should do a safety stop at 5 m depth for at least 3 minutes immediately before surfacing at the end of each dive where the average depth exceeded 7 metres or the maximum depth exceeded 10 metres.
- A1.5 If a dive does extend beyond the no-decompression limits, divers should remain awake for at least 1 hour after diving and remain in the company of another person prepared to assist with medical intervention if required.
- A1.6 Divers should adhere to the buddy system as taught in their dive training. This buddy system is based upon mutual assistance, especially in an emergency.
- A1.7 If a volunteer diver becomes separated from their buddy:
- a) the diver shall do a 360-degree search for a maximum of 1 minute looking for bubbles or visual sign of the other diver
 - b) if the lost diver is not located, the searching diver shall return to the surface at the correct ascent rate, still performing the 360-degree search on ascent
 - c) the searching diver will deploy a safety surface marker buoy, use a whistle (or ask where the lost diver is) and wait on surface for 4 minutes
 - d) if the lost diver is still missing, divers are to return to their boat or shore and initiate emergency procedures by contacting emergency services.
- A1.8 It is recommended that dive teams should include an informal dive leader and should comprise:
- a) two divers and a competent boat person or shore watch (divers' attendant) OR
 - b) three divers and a competent boat person or shore watch (divers' attendant) OR
 - c) more than three divers grouped into buddy pairs (preferably) or trios, but no more, and one competent boat person or shore watch (divers' attendant).
- A1.9 For shore dive activities, in addition to the inflatable surface marker buoy ("safety sausage") carried by each volunteer diver, each diving team should carry a suitable float (with dive flag) and line, which can be attached to the substrate to mark their area of operation, or towed during the dive.
- A1.10 For boat dive activities, a dive flag shall be suitably mounted on the boat and visible while divers are in the water.

- A1.11 Before divers enter the water, one member of each group (usually the nominated dive leader if there is only one group) shall be designated as the underwater dive leader of that group. Prior to the dive, the underwater dive leader shall confirm a method for summoning attention and recalling divers to the surface, such as banging on the tank with a knife or other metal object.
- A1.12 If the dive activities are to be conducted from a vessel, there should be one competent person aboard the vessel at all times to act as a lookout and divers' attendant, and to recall divers to the boat in an emergency. The method to be used, such as starting and revving the engines 3 times, shall be agreed between the nominated dive leader, the underwater dive leader and the person in charge of the vessel, and conveyed to the divers before the dive begins.
- A1.13 If the dive activities are to be conducted from a vessel which will drop divers and not be at anchor (live drop), the underwater dive leader and vessel skipper should consider putting in a drop-line to provide a visual reference for the person in charge of the vessel.
- A1.14 After completing a dive, each diver shall report any physical problems or symptoms of decompression sickness to the nominated dive leader or other person able to institute the required medical assistance.
- A1.15 Diving after travel - divers shall have had adequate rest before diving.
- A1.16 Travel after diving – altitude exposure after diving is a potent precipitator of decompression illness. A minimum delay time after a dive should be observed, prior to exposure to altitude (e.g. air travel and road travel over mountains). (See *Minimum delay before exposure to altitude.*)
- A1.17 As a general guide, if flying to or ascending to an altitude >300 m after diving:
- a) following a single no-decompression dive, divers should have a minimum pre-flight surface interval of 12 hours
 - b) following multiple dives per day or multiple days diving, divers should have a minimum pre-flight surface interval of 18 hours
 - c) following dives requiring decompression stops, divers should have a minimum pre-flight surface interval of 24 hours.
- A1.18 Before ascending to altitude >300 m by land transport, divers should follow the appropriate guidelines for pre-flight surface intervals unless the decompression procedure used has accounted for the increase in elevation.

**These guidelines are universal best diving practises as taught in any open water diver training. They have been sourced from the following reputable sources:*

Recreational Scuba Diving and Snorkelling Safety in Australia, 2008

(http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/4045/Scuba_Diving_Report_Final_2008.pdf)

DAN's Diving tips for the New Diver

(http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/medical/articles/DANs_Diving_Tips_for_the_New_Diver)

Appendix 2. RLSF dive activity plan

Dive activity plan			
Date of proposed dive:		Location of dive site:	
Shore dive/boat dive (circle one)		Boat owner contact phone:	
Approximate start time:		Nominated dive leader:	
		Contact phone number:	
Nearest hospital:		Phone:	DAN 1800 088 200 within Aust. 61 8 8212 9242 outside Aust.
Nearest decompression chamber:			Phone number:
Nearest diving doctor:			Phone number:
Number of dives proposed:		Dive depth:	Dive duration:
Oxygen cylinder pressure:		O2 Kit checked: Y/N	First Aid kit checked: Y/N
Diver's name	Contact number	Next of kin	Contact number

Appendix 3. RLSF Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form

Accident/Incident or Near Miss Form

Dive activity _____

Person completing form and date _____

Person/s involved in incident / near miss

Name				
Address				
Phone	(H)	(M)	Next of kin & contact number	
DOB		Interpreter required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Incident / near miss details (circle one)

Day		Date		Time	
Incident / near miss location					
Witness					
Witness Address					
Witness Phone		(w)		Mobile	
How did the incident / near miss occur?					
Describe the injury and part(s) of the body injured if applicable	(add additional pages if required)				
Describe treatment or actions undertaken					
Name of persons providing treatment / actions		First Aid Qualified	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Advised to seek medical treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Ambulance called	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Police in attendance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Was this incident or near miss covered in a risk assessment or safety procedure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			

Is the person a:	RLSF Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Trainee <input type="checkbox"/>
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ACTION BY ORGANISATION

Contact person		Ph number	
Date reported		Time reported	
Corrective action/s:	Interim actions: E.g: emergency advice to volunteers to do/not do an action		
In consultation with:	Long term controls: E.g: amend procedures in Safety Manual		
Safety Committee members Date:			

Instructions

- Delegate completes all details
- Contact RLSF as soon as possible, contact:

Margo Smith (RLSF Safety Committee & Volunteer Representative): 0414 548 213, or
Toni Cooper (RLSF Programs Coordinator and RLSF Safety Committee): 0417 345 185

Or email: enquiries@reeflifesurvey.com

- Consult on corrective actions

Appendix 4. Sample RLSF Site Assessment and Diver Log

Site Assessment and Diver Log

Dive location:		Risk Score**		Nominated dive leader:	
Date:	Underwater team leader:				
Time in:	Max depth	Pressure in	Pressure out	Dive duration	Signature
Name					

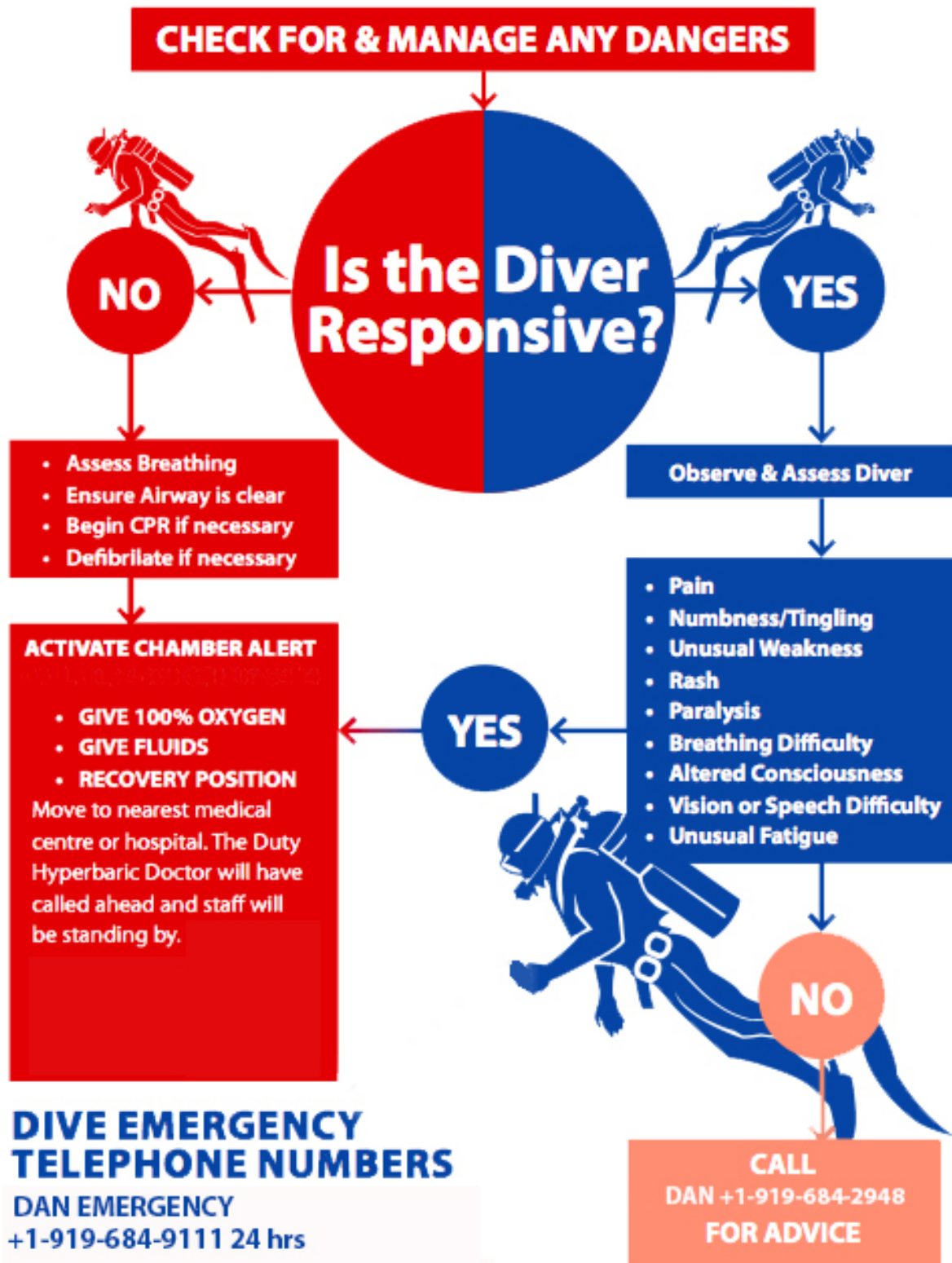
Volunteer level	Score	No. Divers	Score	Current	Score	Depth (m)	Score
Trainee	3	>12	4	>1 knot	4	30+	4
Inexperienced	2	8 – 11	3	0.5 – 1 knot	3	20-30	3
Experienced	1	5 – 7	2	0 – 0.5 knot	2	10-20	2
Experience + local knowledge	-1	1 - 4	1	No current	1	0-10	1
Surface Wave height	Score	Visibility	Score			Special consideration	Score
>1m	4	0 – 3m	4			Age	1
0.5 – 1m	3	3 – 5m	3			Language	1
<0.5m	2	5 – 7m	2			Dive fitness	1
Flat	1	7- 10m	1			Remote location	2
						Trainer present	-1

Total Matrix	Score
Volunteer level	
No. divers	
Current	
Depth	
Surface conditions	
Visibility	
Special consideration	
Total**	

** Maximum score under which a notified dive may proceed without additional advice and/or significant improvement in safety conditions is 19 points. For a score of 21 or more you must dive at an alternative location or demonstrate a significant improvement in safety procedures, supervision or conditions.

Appendix 5. RLSF Emergency Flowchart

DIVE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART



DIVE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

DAN EMERGENCY
+1-919-684-9111 24 hrs

RLSF SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
Margo Smith: 0414 548 213