

**MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Operational Guidelines**

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2020

**26.1 – DIVE (Dive Assignment)**

**PURPOSE**

A *DIVE* response will be dispatched when a report is received from a credible and reliable witness of a water-related emergency with one or more people in/on the water or ice.

**SCOPE**

The Dive Team ranking Officer will confer with the Incident Commander, develop a plan of action, and initiate or complete the rescue/recovery of the victim(s).

**GUIDELINE**

1. Establish Command
2. Conduct scene size-up
  - a. Investigate the nature of the alarm and gain credible information from witnesses
3. Position apparatus to protect the safety perimeter
  - a. Ensure personnel operating on or near the water or ice are wearing, at all times, a properly fitting personal flotation device (PFD)
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
  - a. Identify the need for a “rescue” or “potential rescue”
5. Initiate and maintain communications
  - a. Provide first in report
  - b. Relay pertinent information to incoming companies
6. Implement incident action plan
  - a. Gather pertinent information from witnesses and retain the witness
  - b. Find out what happened (events leading up to the emergency)
  - c. Account for victims (number/location/condition)
  - d. Determine last reported location of the victim
    - i. Initiate or complete the rescue/recovery of the victim(s).
    - ii. Reach/Throw/No Go until arrival of DIVE Team
  - e. Establish a proper safety perimeter in accordance with the risk.
7. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
  - a. Notify and request additional resources or other agencies (MFD SONAR, MPD Dive investigators, MPD Harbor Patrol, US Coast Guard) as needed