

STANDARD SAFE DIVING PRACTICES STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

This is a statement in which you are informed of the established safe diving practices for skin and scuba diving. These practices have been compiled for your review and acknowledgement and are intended to increase your comfort and safety in diving. Your signature on this statement is required as proof that you are aware of these safe diving practices. Read and discuss the statement prior to signing it. If you are a minor, this form must also be signed by a parent or guardian.

I, _____, understand that as a diver I should:
(Print Name)

1. Maintain good mental and physical fitness for diving. Avoid being under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs when diving. Keep proficient in diving skills, striving to increase them through continuing education and reviewing them in controlled conditions after a period of diving inactivity.

2. Be familiar with my dive sites. If not, obtain a formal diving orientation from a knowledgeable, local source. If diving conditions are worse than those in which I am experienced, postpone diving or select an alternate site with better conditions. Engage only in diving activities consistent with my training and experience. Do not engage in cave diving unless specifically trained to do so.

3. Use complete, well-maintained, reliable equipment with which I am familiar; and inspect it for correct fit and function prior to each dive. Deny use of my equipment to uncertified divers. Always have a buoyancy control device and submersible pressure gauge when scuba diving. Recognize the desirability of an alternate air source and a low-pressure buoyancy control inflation system.

4. Listen carefully to dive briefings and directions and respect the advice of those supervising my diving activities.

5. Adhere to the buddy system throughout every dive. Plan dives – including communications, procedures for reuniting in case of separation, and emergency procedures – with my buddy.

6. Be proficient in dive-table usage. Make all dives no-decompression dives and allow a margin of safety. Have a means to monitor depth and time under water. Limit maximum depth to my level of training and experience. Ascend at a rate of not more than 18 metres/60 feet per minute.

7. Maintain proper buoyancy. Adjust weighting at the surface for neutral buoyancy with no air in my buoyancy control device. Maintain neutral buoyancy while under water. Be buoyant for surface swimming and resting. Have weights clear for easy removal, and establish buoyancy when in distress while diving.

8. Breathe properly for diving. Never breath hold or skip breathe when breathing compressed air, and avoid excessive hyperventilation when breath-hold diving. Avoid overexertion while in and under water and dive within my limitations.

9. Use a boat, float, or other surface support station whenever feasible.

10. Know and obey local diving laws and regulations, including fish-and-game and dive-flag laws.

I have read the above statements and have had any questions answered to my satisfaction. I understand the importance and purposes of these established practices. I recognize they are for my own safety and well being, and that failure to adhere to them can place me in jeopardy when diving.

Participant's Signature

Date (Day/Month/Year)

Signature of Parent or Guardian (where applicable)

Date (Day/Month/Year)