Search & Recovery Lecture 4

Equipment
We Will Cover

• Introduction
• Suit / gloves
• Harness / lifeline / BCD
• Facemask / regulator / octopus
• Lighting
• Cutting
• Weight
• Communications
Introduction

• Service certificate per CFT or manufacturer for all equipment used

• Suitable for purpose intended

• If unsuitable, replace or discard
Suit / Gloves

- **Dry-suits (neoprene/membrane)**
  - If risk of cold / contamination

- **Semi-dry suits**
  - If water not cold or polluted

- **Gloves**
  - Latex gloves if handling casualty
  - Latex gloves if working in polluted waters
  - Dry gloves in pollution / cold / sharp objects
Harness / Life-line / BCD

- Full harness
- Life-line
- Buoyancy devices
Face mask

- Half face (SCUBA) when no pollution risk – used with standard regulator

- Full face mask with lanyard attached
  - Full face mask training course before use

- Octopus - accessible
Lighting

• Torches
  – in dark waters or at night
  – hand or helmet mounted

• Strobes
  – locating casualty / marking position
  – light sticks: marking swim lines, divers, shot lines, casualty
  – green marks divers / red marks shot/swim lines

• High visibility jacket
Cutting

- **Knives**
  - Essential - to cut ropes / nets
  - Keep sharp

- **Shears**
  - Like shears in first aid kit

- **Net cutters / scissors**
  - For cutting ropes / nets

- All to be Accessible with both hands
Weights and Buoys

• **Belts**
  - Quick release: accessible by diver/buddy
  - Harness: quick release / accessible

• **Buoys**
  - SMB for locating divers, marking shot lines, search-lights, casualty or cars
Communications

- Hand signals per CFT
- Recall signal per CFT – 3 long engine revs
- Radio communications: full-face masks fitted with radio communications
Rope Signals

• Rope should be clearly distinguishable

• Not to be used for any other purpose other than signalling

• All other pulls: slow strong pulls with a positive gap between each pull

• All signals must be returned
Rope Signals

- 1 tug means attention, when this is given then the diver faces the rope attendant
- 2 tugs means turn left
- 3 tugs means turn right
- 4 tugs means for diver to surface
- Rapid succession from diver indicates a problem/ emergency
- Diver to return tugs before following command
Rope Signals

• Can be very difficult in fast flowing water

• Can also be difficult in water with obstructions

• Requires a lot of practise, to be proficient
Rope Signals
Summary

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• Facemask / regulator / octopus
• Lighting
• Cutting Devices
• Weight
• Communications