Search & Recovery: 5 Search Methods v1.0

Search Methods

Search & Recovery Lecture 5
We Will Cover

• Search essentials
• Research Stage
• Types Of Search
• Bottom line search
• Circular search
We Will Cover

- Jackstay search
- Grid search
- Compass search
- Single diver search
- R.O.V use
- D.P.V use
Search Essentials

• Aim for 100% coverage
• Method should be simple + effective
• Teamwork is essential
• Team must be adaptable if chosen method becomes unworkable
• Cost effective – in dive time
Research Stage

- Important to research and plan well before diving
- An exact search area greatly enhances the chances of recovery
Types of Search

- Search Method choice will depend on:
  - Water movement
  - Visibility
  - Equipment available
  - Numbers of divers available
  - Depth
  - Type of Seabed/ Riverbed
Swim Line Search

- Canals / rivers using bank as limiter
- In open sea using parallel jackstays
- ‘Anchor diver’ at both ends keep line taut
- Can be conducted from shore (no boat)
- Swimming with current will save energy
- Swimming against the current will be more arduous, but may improve visibility
Bottom Line Search

- Quick coverage of large area
- Uses many divers (2-8)
- Difficult to control, if not practised
- Distance between divers depends on visibility
- Too much distance between divers reduces effectiveness
Bottom Line Search
Tow Search

• Can be useful for large areas
• Needs experienced divers and cox’n
• Very slow speeds when towing divers
Circular Search

- Where search area is small
- Diver(s) circle(s) around weighted shot-line
- Diver uses reel from central shot
- Fixed bottom line indicates full circle completed
- No special equipment required
Circular Search
Jackstay Search

- For small objects
- Restricted area
- Good coverage
- Takes time
- Bad weather hampers
- Equipment required
- Practice needed
Jackstay Search

Shotweight

Jackstay line
Jackstay and Parallel Baselines Search
Grid Search

- For finding small items
- In very small areas
- 100% coverage possible
- Need lots of time
- Labour intensive
Compass

- For large object
- Good navigation skills
- Good visibility
- Slack water
- Practice needed
Single Diver Search

- Easy to commence
- Ideal for search such as river-bank
- Fast flows / bad visibility
- Communications / standby diver
- Safety lines / harness
- Experienced personnel
- Safety
Single Diver Search
R.O.V

May be an option in cold or deep water if available
R.O.V

Requires specialist training
Diver Propulsion Vehicle

- May be useful for large areas with good visibility
- Divers need to be competent in their use
Search Methods

• Record all areas searched to avoid duplication

• Ensure 100% Coverage

Good luck everybody!
Summary

- Search essentials & Research Stage
- Types Of Search
- Bottom line search
- Circular search & Jackstay search
- Grid search & Compass search
- Single diver search
- R.O.V use & D.P.V use