Search & Recovery Lecture 6

Recovery
We Will Cover

• Recovery – the final step
• If a vehicle was involved
• Reporting to authorities
• Removal of vehicle
• Record keeping
Recovery

• Body in water will usually sink
• Specific gravity of body close to that of water

• Amount of time for a body to surface depends largely on water temperature

• June to August – 2 days
• April, May, Sept, Oct – 3-5 days
• Nov, Dec – 10-14 days
• Jan, Feb possibly no resurfacing
Recovery – The Final Step

- Decision to move missing person
- Do not always assume a missing person is dead
- Approaching the missing person
- Lift method & recovery method
- Normal finning / ascent rates / care
Body Bag

- Ensure a body bag is readily accessible when on a search operation
- Ensure zip is in good working order
- Ensure good lifting handles
- Drain water from bag when lifting from the water – to reduce weight
Body Bag
If a Vehicle was Involved (1)

- May want to move the missing person from car before moving car
- More than one missing person?
- Seat belt on?
- Windows open?
- Was the car in gear?
- Lights switched on or off?
If a Vehicle was Involved (2)

- Position of key in ignition?
- What depth?
- Was the vehicle upside down?
- What was the registration number?
- Any items floating about?
Reporting to Authorities

- Hand over of missing person and details to authorities
- Out of the public eye
- Witness statement for inquest – keep your own record of events a.s.a.p. after dive
- Identification of the missing person may take place
- Prayers may be said
Removal of Vehicle

• 2 divers – using rope or chain, if safe to do so

• Secure firmly

• Allow to drain of water

• Keep clear – all divers out of water before lift
Record Keeping

- Record all details in SAR logbook
- Photos can be useful / accurate record
- Copy to the authorities
- Will facilitate learning for future exercises
- Debrief
- Counselling
Summary

- Recovery – the final step
- If a vehicle was involved
- Reporting to authorities
- Removal of vehicle
- Record keeping