

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>East Haven Police Department</b></p> 	<b>Type of Directive:</b> <b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		<b>No. 430.2</b>
	<b>Subject/Title:</b> <b>East Haven Police Dive Team and Marine Unit</b>		<b>Issue Date:</b> <b>July 29, 2014</b>
	<b>Issuing Authority:</b> <b>Honorable Board of Police Commissioners</b>		<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>September 1, 2014</b>
	<b>References/Attachments: N/A</b>		<b>Review Date:</b> <b>Annually</b>
		<b>Rescinds:</b> <b>430.1</b>	<b>Amends:</b> <b>N/A</b>

## I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this directive is to set forth the policies and procedures of the East Haven Police Department regarding the basic standards for the operation of the East Haven Police Dive Team and Marine Unit.

## II. POLICY

- A. The mission of the East Haven Police Dive Team and Marine Unit is to:
1. Conduct underwater search and rescue efforts, recovery operations for evidence, bodies, and any other assignments as directed by the Chief of Police or designee.
  2. Enhance the department's ability to serve the citizens of East Haven.
  3. Provide the East Haven Police Department with the capability of carrying out its responsibilities on the waters in and adjacent to its jurisdiction.
  4. Assist in defending the country in the prevention of terrorist type activities on sensitive targets along the waterways of East Haven and its adjacent jurisdictions.
  5. Assist other emergency service agencies with waterborne search and rescue operations.

## III. GENERAL GUIDELINES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Unit Structure
1. The Dive Team and Marine Unit shall consist of the following:

- a. Unit Supervisor.
- b. Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader.
- c. Officers.

B. Command Structure

1. The following is the Dive Team and Marine Unit Command Structure:
  - a. Head of Patrol.
  - b. Unit Supervisor (holds rank of sergeant or above).
  - c. Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader.
  - d. Unit members.

C. Dive Team Selection

1. All Dive Team Members are also members of the Marine Unit.
2. All sworn East Haven officers may apply for a position on the Dive Team and Marine Unit if they meet the following criteria;
  - a. Sworn member of the East Haven Police Department for a minimum of one year.
  - b. Is willing to complete the training required to obtain a SCUBA Certification, which is recognized by the Recreational SCUBA Training Council.
  - c. Is willing to complete the training to become a certified lifeguard.
  - d. Is willing to complete the training required to obtain a Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate.
  - e. Has a letter of recommendation from a supervisor.
3. Once a list of interested candidates is compiled, each candidate will conduct the following:
  - a. Oral interview.
  - b. Medical exam by licensed physician indicating clearance for SCUBA diving.
  - c. Swim Test
    - 1) 500 yard swim in under 20 minutes (no fins or snorkel).
    - 2) 25 yard swim (underwater, no fins or snorkel).
    - 3) 45 minutes treading water.
  - d. Completion of SCUBA Certification course. If a candidate is already SCUBA certified then he or she will conduct one checkout dive in the pool and one checkout dive in the open water with the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader.

The equipment required to complete this training will be purchased by the department.

- e. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader will confer with the Unit Supervisor, who will then make a recommendation to the Chief of Police or his designee on whether they believe a candidate should be appointed to the unit.

#### D. Marine Unit Selection

1. Those who do not want to be members of the Dive Team may apply to the Marine Unit if they meet the following criteria:
  - a. Sworn member of the East Haven Police Department for a minimum of one year.
  - b. Is willing to complete the training required to obtain a Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate or already holds the certification.
  - c. Is willing to complete the training to become a certified lifeguard by an accredited agency or already holds the certification.
  - d. Is willing to be trained as a dive tender.
  - e. Has a letter of recommendation from a supervisor.
2. Once a list of interested candidates is compiled, each candidate will conduct the following:
  - a. Oral interview.
  - b. Medical exam by licensed physician.
  - c. Swim Test
    - 1) 500 yard swim in under 20 minutes (no fins or snorkel).
    - 2) 25 yard swim (underwater, no fins or snorkel).
    - 3) 45 minutes treading water.
  - d. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader will confer with the Unit Supervisor, who will then make a recommendation to the Chief of Police or his designee on whether they believe a candidate should be appointed to the unit.

#### E. Equipment

1. All equipment shall be provided by the department.
2. An inventory of all equipment assigned to an officer shall be maintained by the Unit Supervisor.
3. All equipment will be serviced annually.

4. Each officer is responsible to ensure his or her equipment is in good working order and if it is not, he or she shall immediately notify the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader or Unit Supervisor.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Training**

1. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader will research and arrange for training in coordination with the Training Supervisor under the direction of the Unit Supervisor.
2. The Dive Team will make an effort to conduct two training sessions per month, with a goal of completing 18 training sessions a year.
3. The Marine Unit training will be seasonal and will make an effort to train twice a month between, and including the months of May through September.

#### **B. Dive Team Activation**

1. If a Dive Team member is on duty, said member will immediately be dispatched to the scene.
2. The Head of Patrol shall be immediately notified. If unavailable, the next in the command structure of the unit shall be immediately notified. Attempts will be made down the chain of command until contact is made with Dive Team Members.
3. The Head of Patrol shall consult with the Unit Supervisor and/or Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader in making deciding to activate the Dive Team. If the Head of Patrol cannot be contacted, the decision will be made by the Unit Supervisor and/or Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader.
4. Once a Dive Team Unit member is on scene, the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader, or in his absence the most senior diver (by appointment date to the Dive Team), shall make the decision to commence operations.
5. The Dive Team should be activated on any water related emergency.
6. If the Dive Team is activated, the Chief of Police or his designee shall be notified.

#### **C. Dive Team Operations**

1. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader shall have command of the dive operation and shall issue assignments related to such assignment.
2. In the absence of the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader, the Unit Supervisor will delegate which member of the dive team will assume command of the dive operation.

3. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader will obtain all information necessary for decision making regarding a dive operation, including safety factors, water and weather conditions, and evaluating personnel to assess their diving ability.
4. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader shall have authority to cancel, suspend or delay any dive operation based on the risk benefit factor.

D. Marine Unit Activation

1. The Marine Unit will be activated at the discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee.
2. The department will make an effort to deploy the Marine Unit every Saturday and Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The department will also make an effort to deploy the Marine Unit on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

E. Marine Unit Operations

1. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader shall have command of the marine operation and the Unit Supervisor shall issue assignments related to such assignment.
2. In the absence of the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader, the member with the most marine experience shall assume command of operations.
3. The Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader shall have authority to cancel, suspend or delay any marine unit operations if conditions are unsafe.

F. Vessel Operations

1. The Dive Team and Marine Unit vessel will be operated by the Dive Team and Marine Unit Leader, or who has the most experience in vessel operations.
2. While underway, all vessel occupants will wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The only exception is a Dive Team Member while commencing a dive operation.
3. Marine patrol operations will not commence with less than three members on board. An effort will be made to have four members on board during marine patrol.