



Dive Medicine for Divers



Course info

When you want to know more than just basic first aid techniques, Dive Medicine for Divers is your next step. Ultimately, more knowledge and a better understanding of how our bodies react to pressure and stress of diving lead to safer divers as we understand the risks and limitations.

Created as an educational program to answer many questions divers ask, each segment builds upon the other, but there is no specific order to complete each section. This program allows for flexibility: You can complete all of the components as one program over several days, or you may choose to complete the individual modules as time allows.

The course includes a selection of new skills and practical applications, along with lectures presented by a DAN Instructor or Instructor Trainer, video programs and additional self-study information.

Prerequisites

None

Course and Learning Objectives

Program Objective

The program is designed to inform divers about what happens in a diving emergency and how diving affects their bodies. It provides a framework to educate interested divers in a series of topics not normally addressed in dive training.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing the components of the educational program, divers will understand the various skills involved in assessing and caring for an injured diver. They will also have a better understanding of how to prevent dive accidents while understanding how to respond to them when they do happen.

Knowledge is power to help

For many divers, if they don't continue to learn, they eventually lose interest. As dive buddies, if we don't continue to learn and gain a better understanding of the physical processes of diving, we may be unable to help one another when he need it most.

Additionally, by gaining a better understanding of diving, dive physiology and dive safety issues and concerns, you achieve greater peace of mind. That means you'll be more comfortable and confident during your dives.

This special program is designed as a series of educational modules: Each one details a different aspect of dive safety, education and medicine important to all divers.

Topics include:

Fitness to dive	Discusses physical fitness and medical conditions that can keep divers out of the water and explains basic ear-clearing techniques.
Safety planning	Addresses processes and procedures to make your dives safer and actions that can be used in dealing with the aftermath of a dive accident including handling of the diver's equipment for an investigation and taking care of the rescuers' emotional needs.
Decompression Illness and Barotrauma	Reviews decompression theory and provides an overview of decompression illness including a short discussion of neurological symptoms. Presents an introduction to dive accident management and what happens during a hyperbaric chamber treatment. Explains the various potential barotraumas to which a diver can be exposed and their identifying symptoms. Participants will examine several dive accident cases and how they were treated. A final discussion will address important elements of accident and injury reporting.
Equipment related issues	Teaches essentials of cleaning, sanitizing and maintaining equipment with emphasis on accident prevention.
Gas toxicities and partial pressure	Covers nitrogen narcosis, hypercapnia and oxygen toxicity and examines gas laws and the physiological impacts the human body experiences under pressure.
Drowning	A discussion of the cascade of events that can lead to a diver's death and preventative measures.
Providing care and the Good Samaritan Law	Understand the obligation and/or consequence of providing care. Emphasizes the appropriate role of the rescuer.
Basic examinations	Introduces the use of a stethoscope in determining the presence (or absence) of breathing sounds.
Allergic reactions and taking blood pressure	Participants learn proper use of an EpiPen® and how to take a blood pressure.
Ear barotrauma	Introduces the Teed's Scale and includes photos depicting various ear injuries. Covers basic ear anatomy and visualization with an otoscope.