



# United States Coast Guard

## Marine Safety Alert

### Assistant Commandant for Prevention

Department of Homeland Security

March 15, 2007  
Washington, DC

Alert 1-07

#### COMMERCIAL DIVING SAFETY

As a result of Hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery operations, and growth in oil and gas exploration and extraction activities, there has been increased commercial diving activities in U.S. waters. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Coast Guard have observed that the increased commercial diving activity has been accompanied by an increase in diver fatalities and injuries.

This safety alert reiterates the need for commercial diving persons-in-charge and diving supervisors to fully meet their responsibilities prescribed in 46 CFR 197 Subpart B, and within the voluntary industry consensus standards which have been adopted by many companies.

*Of particular importance are the following requirements:*

A pre-dive briefing which includes

- (a) The tasks to be undertaken;
- (b) Any unusual hazards or environmental conditions likely to affect the safety of the diving operation;
- (c) Any modifications to the operations manual or procedures including safety procedures necessitated by the specific diving operation; and
- (d) Instructions to report any physical problems or physiological effects including aches, pains, current illnesses, or symptoms of decompression sickness prior to each dive.

A pre-dive inspection of equipment including the breathing gas supply systems, masks, helmets, thermal protection, when provided, and bell lifting equipment, when a bell is provided or required.

Maintenance at the dive location for each diver during the dive of a depth, bottom time profile (except that SCUBA divers shall maintain their own profiles).

Effective onsite communications.

A post-dive check of the diver's physical well-being and other required communications.

The availability of first aid and treatment equipment.



# United States Coast Guard

## Marine Safety Alert

### Assistant Commandant for Prevention

*Department of Homeland Security*

The availability and use of a currently maintained Operations Manual which provides for the safety and health of divers and which contains:

- (a) Safety procedures and checklists for each diving mode used.
- (b) Assignments and responsibilities of each dive team member for each diving mode used.
- (c) Equipment procedures and checklists for each diving mode used.
- (d) Emergency procedures for -
  - (i) Fire;
  - (ii) Equipment failure;
  - (iii) Adverse environmental conditions including, but not limited to, weather and sea state;
  - (iv) Medical illness; and
  - (v) Treatment of injury.
- (e) Procedures dealing with the use of -
  - (i) Hand-held power tools;
  - (ii) Welding and burning equipment; and
  - (iii) Explosives.

The commercial diving regulations enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard are contained in 46 CFR 197 Subpart B. These regulations are available through the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) and may be downloaded without cost from the GPO's internet website <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html> .

The Office of Operating & Environmental Standards (CG-3PSO) developed this alert. Address any content questions to LCDR Kenneth Bryan at [Kenneth.R.Bryan@uscg.mil](mailto:Kenneth.R.Bryan@uscg.mil).

This material is provided for informational purpose only and does not relieve any existing domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement.