PADI Americas, working in conjunction with several PADI Members who are respected and experienced in the public safety diving field, has produced the PADI Standardized Public Safety Diving program. Public safety divers, conduct a variety of important and potentially stressful underwater tasks - including *rescue, evidence and body recovery, underwater inspections and more* - for local communities. Public safety divers are typically in the police department, fire department or emergency services and couple their job experience with specialized dive training to carry out these underwater activities in a safe, efficient manner.

**What You Learn**

The new PADI Public Safety Diving course is designed to familiarize divers with the skills, knowledge, planning, organization, procedures, techniques and hazards of public safety diving. The course covers several key topics that include:

- specialized public safety diving equipment
- scene handling
- communication procedures
- search patterns
- witness handling
- victim and self rescue techniques

Water skills include a variety of common, useful search patterns as well as team diving roles as primary diver, safety diver, tender, 90 percent diver and supervisor. The program uses proven field techniques and both meets and addresses important National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines found in NFPA 1006 and 1670 (not including disciplines Ice 9/3/7, Surf 9.2.8, or Swift 9.3.9).

**Prerequisites:** *Public Safety Diver Student*

- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or qualifying equivalent certification
- PADI Rescue Diver or qualifying equivalent certification*
- 18 years of age
- Proof of affiliation/employment with a public safety team (law enforcement, fire, paramedic, EMT, dive rescue team, etc.)

*You may also need to conduct ancillary programs (PADI Dry Suit Diver or a Distinctive Specialty program on full-face mask, for example) to fully prepare divers to carry out public safety diving operations in your region's conditions.*

Please note that only individuals employed in fields such as law enforcement, fire suppression and emergency services are qualified to take the PSD Specialty program. The PADI Public Safety Diver program will lay an excellent foundation for dive team members with little or no experience but will also work well for experienced divers wanting to refresh basic skills and learn new public safety diving techniques.
The first step is to train up to the PADI Rescue Diver level. This is the minimum prerequisite certification required and meets important criteria, but it also establishes a solid foundation for public safety diver training. The PADI Search and Recovery Diver course is also beneficial as it will help divers with some of the search and recovery techniques used extensively in public safety diver training and in the field.

**The Materials & Equipment You Need:**
- Two Cutting Devices (shears, knife, seat belt cutter, etc.)
- Two Scuba Cylinders - 80 cubic feet or larger
- Two surface signaling devices (whistle, surface marker buoy, etc.)
- All personal standard dive equipment
- Pocket mask
- Log book
- Recommended: PADI Rescue Manual, Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving, Spare mask, PFD (personal flotation device), Support equipment (first aid, oxygen, communications equipment, etc)

**Program & Certification Requirements**
PSD is taught using a combination of classroom presentations, surface practice sessions, and 4 Open Water dives over 2 days. Confined water sessions may be added to introduce new skills or equipment to the class. The student diver must demonstrate accurate and adequate knowledge and performance of all skills fluidly with little difficulty, in a manner that demonstrates minimal or no stress during the Open Water dives.

In addition, ancillary programs, such as PADI Dry Suit Diver or a PADI Distinctive Specialty program on full face mask diving, may be conducted to ensure divers have any specific skills pertinent to the region in which they will be operating. This Specialty course certification also counts as one of five Specialty certifications required for Master Scuba Diver certification.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact us at malibudivers@gmail.com or 310-456-2396.

**Prerequisites:** Public Safety Diver Specialty Instructor

- PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer
- PADI Dry Suit Specialty Instructor
- PADI Full-Face Mask Distinctive Specialty Instructor
- Any (3) three of these PADI Specialty Instructor ratings:
  - Search and Recovery
  - Night Diver
  - Underwater Navigator
  - Emergency Oxygen Provider
  - Limited Visibility Distinctive

Current Emergency First Response Instructor (or qualifying rating)
Medically evaluated and cleared for diving by a physician within 12 months
Proof of affiliation/employment with a public safety team (law enforcement, fire, paramedic, EMT, dive rescue team, etc.)
One year public safety diving experience with:
- Twenty public safety diver missions,* OR,
• if a Public Safety Diver Instructor, 10 missions* and 10 public safety diver certifications issued

Proof of Incident Command Training Level 200 (or regional equivalent).

*Missions may include simulations or dive team exercises.

The PADI Public Safety Diver Instructor program is for PADI Members with a need to train local personnel for rescue, recovery and evidence collection. Currently Malibu Divers has current Public Safety Diver Instructors who have been training Federal Law Enforcement personnel and the various local Law Enforcement Agencies for many years. They also have experience with being on local volunteer dive member teams for law enforcement. If you are a PADI Instructor or Professional who is interested in becoming a PSD Instructor, please contact us to discuss your needs and the requirements that will be needed to attend this specialty program.

For more information on the program and qualification requirements, contact us. We can provide all the training you need, or a train the trainer approach and will train at your location or our location. If your Marine Safety, Fire Department or Dive Team would like additional information or be contacted or request a quote, don't delay, email us or call 310-456-2396.