

Guidelines for evaluation of Rescue Exercise 7 at the PADI IE.

Dear Course Director,

Here are the guidelines that will be followed by the Examiner and candidates at the IE starting immediately. Please familiarize your self and your candidates with this protocol to ensure a smooth rescue evaluation at the IE.

Diver rescue skills are essential for any diving instructor, hence their inclusion in the PADI IDC and IE. PADI has a responsibility to the diving public to ensure that all PADI Instructors are able to demonstrate and teach divers' essential rescue skills. This requires them to be evaluated prior to certification as a PADI OWSI.

The current Covid19 public health crisis has raised a number of questions on how to conduct the Rescue E 7 evaluation and adhere to local health and safety authority guidelines and World Health Organization recommendations to minimise the likelihood of disease transmission.

Adhering to the following procedures will allow rescue demonstration skills to be evaluated at the IE and meet recommendations for minimisation of disease transmission.

Equipment.

In addition to dive equipment required by PADI standards each diver should have;

1. A personal rescue breathing mask (RBM).

Before and after the exercise each diver's hands should be sanitized and equipment should be cleaned in accordance with recent Divers Alert Network web post

<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/news/dan-encourages-divers-and-dive-operators-to-properly-disinfect-dive-gear>

Rescue performance.

Commence rescue as normal with exception that victim's RBM should be on the rescuer's wrist or some location known and easily accessible to the rescuer.

There is no change to the setup of the skill or the way the rescue is performed up until the point the rescuer makes physical contact with the victim. From that point forward the rescuer is to;

1. Avoid making contact with head of the victim during check for responsiveness.
2. Turn victim to face-up position by gripping hands or wrists and rolling.
3. Establish victim and rescuer positive buoyancy by removing weights and partially inflating BCD with LPI.
4. Remove victim regulator by pulling on second stage hose, avoiding contact with second stage body, Rescuer keeps regulator in place.
5. Remove victim's diving mask, immediately replacing it with victim's RBM ensuring it is covers mouth and nose.
6. Rescuer removes regulator and simulate removal of their own mask, whilst keeping the mask in place throughout the exercise.

7. Avoid contact with the airway of the victim or the RBM during the breathing check. The rescuer should adopt a position which, with small adjustment, would allow an effective breathing check to be conducted and verbally describe the actual correct position that they would adopt for a proper breathing check.

NB: Examiner should determine whether breathing check could be effectively administered from the position adopted by the rescuer, together with rescuer's verbal description.

8. Administer two simulated full rescue breaths being careful not to make contact with the shell of the RBM or the face of the victim. The rescuer should adopt a position which, with small adjustment, would allow effective rescue breaths to be administered and verbally describe actual correct position they would adopt to administer an effective rescue breath.

NB: Examiner should determine whether rescue breaths could be effectively administered from the position adopted by the rescuer together with rescuer's verbal description.

9. Administer one simulated rescue breath every 5 seconds adopting same technique as in 8 above whilst beginning to remove scuba equipment from both victim and rescuer.
10. Complete rescue as usual until complete equipment removal from both victim and rescuer giving a simulated rescue breath every five seconds.