



**ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
4985 Broder Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 803-7800**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Alameda County Sheriff's Dive Team. We are currently looking for a few special individuals to help us. This information will help you understand what we do, and whether you might want to join us.

Being a Dive Team volunteer can be an interesting, challenging, and rewarding experience. It can build character, teach you new skills, and provide a way for you to support the communities we live in. Our team members generally feel a profound sense of pride about the services we provide. We have opportunities for both divers and surface support personnel. There are many individual roles required to make a team like this function efficiently. In every role, however, we require a significant level of commitment from each team member.

Team members attend monthly meetings and training dives on an ongoing basis, and commit to providing a minimum of 70 hours of service every year. We are called upon by the Sheriff to perform underwater searches in all sorts of conditions, such as bad weather, and in murky and contaminated water. Call outs seem to occur at the most inconvenient times.

All applicants must undergo a complete background check by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. This is done to make sure dive team members are appropriate representatives of the Sheriff. Applicants must complete an interview with several members of the team leadership, to ensure that the applicant's skills and disposition are appropriate for the team. Applicants are required to have or obtain an appropriate first-aid and CPR certification. New team members must complete an academy to learn the black-water search and contingency skills our team uses.

Members are required to provide their own uniform, and divers must provide some basic dive equipment (mask, fins, wet/dry suit). Specialized equipment, such as harnesses, cutting devices, full-face masks with radio communications, lift bags, etc., are provided by the county. Talk with a current dive team member to understand the potential costs involved in purchasing uniforms and equipment.

Although this is a volunteer organization, we require a high level of commitment from prospective and current members. It's important to understand that as a unit of the Office of Emergency Services, we can be called to provide underwater services at any time, and we're expected to respond promptly and professionally. The overall team is currently organized into units that rotate "on-call" duties. Our

teams have been called to operate on weekdays, weekends, holidays, in the middle of the night, and just about any other time you can imagine. You should carefully consider whether you can accept this commitment level prior to joining the team.

Other team requirements include:

1. diving positions require certification from a recognized agency
2. must be at least 18 years of age
3. must hold a current California Drivers License

After passing an interview with a few of the dive team's leaders, prospective divers will be asked to pass a physical agility test, which should be attached to this packet. Following that, you'll be asked to participate in the Basic Public Safety Diving Academy, which lasts around 12 weeks, and teaches the fundamental skills you'll need to participate with the team, either as a diver or as part of the operations team. The academy meets at least once a week for about 12 weeks. As a part of the academy, you'll also be asked to complete a couple of on-line FEMA courses on Incident Command, and to participate in a few seminars that will familiarize you with other aspects of the Office of Emergency Services.

Participating on our team is a fairly large commitment, but it can be a very rewarding experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a dive team member, or to contact me (email: david.mcmurdie@gmail.com, phone: 925-366-4528). We've enclosed the following for you to complete:

Alameda County Sheriff's Office Application
Alameda Count Dive Team Supplemental Application

Please complete these documents and mail them to:

Alameda County Sheriff's Office
Office of Homeland Security Services
Attn: Deputy Rebecca Gandsey
4985 Broder Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568

Also, I suggest that you include your family and your employer in your decision to join our team. Your commitment to serve will, at some point, impact them as well as you.

regards,

David McMurdie
Chief, Alameda County Sheriff's Office Dive Team