

UNDERWATER RECOVERY UNIT

This order establishes operational policies and outlines procedures for activating the Department's Underwater Recovery Unit.

I. POLICY

A. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Underwater Recovery Unit (URU) will be responsible for conducting underwater searches for items of property or evidence in inland waters of San Francisco and San Francisco Bay. The URU will not be used for rescue of persons or recovery of bodies; this will be the responsibility of the SFFD Rescue Company Diving Team. If an object to be recovered is evidence or stolen property, the URU shall be notified to relieve the SFFD Rescue Company Diving Team.

B. COMPOSITION/AVAILABILITY

1. **QUALIFICATIONS.** The URU shall consist of volunteer officers who are certified in SCUBA by N.A.U.I., P.A.D.I., N.A.S.D.S. or Y.M.C.A. and must have at least five years open-water diving experience.

2. **AVAILABILITY.** The URU shall be available twenty-four hours a day.

C. **CHAIN OF COMMAND.** The Officer-in-Charge of the URU shall be a certified diver and shall report to the Commander of Special Operations Division.

D. **EQUIPMENT.** URU members shall provide and maintain their diving equipment in a safe and ready condition.

E. OPERATIONS

1. **OPERATIONAL STAFFING.** No underwater search will be conducted with less than six divers and one shore safety officer.

2. **ACTIVATION.** Commander of Special Operations Division and the Officer-in-Charge of the URU shall determine the probability of a successful dive and whether the team shall be activated. The OIC of the URU shall make the final decision as to the reasonableness of a team call-up after weighing the exigency of the situation, possibility of success, and personnel matters.

II. PROCEDURES

A. REQUESTING THE URU

1. **DUTIES OF THE PATROL OFFICERS.** If you need the URU to recover property or evidence, contact your field supervisor and request that he or she respond to the scene.
2. **DUTIES OF THE FIELD SUPERVISOR.** Respond to the scene and determine whether an underwater search is desirable and practical. If so, contact the Operations Center at all times.

B. NOTIFICATION OF URU MEMBERS. The Operations Center shall keep a roster of home and work telephone numbers of URU members. If a call-up is indicated, the Officer-in-Charge of the URU and the Commander of Special Operations Division shall be notified.
