



Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services



OPERATIONS

**MARINE MEDIC POLICY**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard process for use and activation of Marine Medic.

**APPLICABILITY:** This policy applies to all members of the Virginia Beach Emergency Response System.

**POLICY STATEMENT:** It shall be the policy of the Department that the response of a Marine Medic to marine operations be closely coordinated to ensure effective resource utilization and operational safety.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**EMS Chief 10:** The EMS Shift Commander. Supporting designee officers include, but are not limited to EMS1/2/3.

**Activation:** A Marine Medic is requested to respond to any scene where ERS divers will be conducting dive operations or a maritime incident where patients are involved.

**Marine Medic:** A medic with specialized dive/marine medical training certified to provide specialized emergency medical care to personnel conducting dive/marine operations from shore or a vessel.

**Marine Response Team (MRT):** A special operations team within the Department of EMS responsible for water rescue and dive operations.

**Police Marine Unit:** Virginia Beach Police Department police officers responsible for law enforcement in the marine environment.

**Marine Medic Supervisor:** A supervisor designated to coordinate with the requesting officer for timely deployment of a Marine Medic.

## **MARINE MEDIC DECISION MAKING**

During dive operations where divers will be entering the water, a Marine Medic must be on scene prior to any ERS diver entering the water to provide medical care.

During operations, at a minimum the Marine Medic provider will:

- Coordinate with the dive supervisor on all matters related to medical care.
- Conduct pre/post-neurological checks on each individual diver.
- Ensure a standby ambulance is on scene when conducting dive operations from the shore.
- Coordinate with dive supervisor on availability of hyperbaric chambers.
- Ensure all dive records are submitted to dive supervisors prior to demobilization.
- Ensure EMS1/2/3 or designee is informed of all pertinent information to assist them in resource management.

## **Swim Test and Boater Safety Requirements**

Marine Medic's will be required to pass an initial swim test and an annual re-test to stay an active member of the team. Requirements are:

- Swim 300 Yards continuously in a forward motion (Freestyle, Side Stroke, Breast Stroke, Back Stroke)
- Tread water for 15 minutes
- Swim 25 Yards and dive to a depth of 9 feet and retrieve an object that is on the bottom of the pool

All Marine Medic's will be required to complete the State of Virginia Boater's Safety Course within the first year of membership to the team. An additional release process from Virginia Beach Police and Virginia Beach EMS Marine Team is also required for each team member to complete prior to release as an active member of the team.

## **Special Consideration- Cruise Ship/Cargo Ship Intercept**

The Marine Medic will be activated and respond to medical emergencies that occur on cruise and cargo ships when requested by the Coast Guard or Port of Virginia. Due to the special nature of these requests, additional medical and personal protection equipment is required for the Marine Medic to perform his/her duties.

These requirements are as follows:

- Marine Medic ALS Pelican Case ( See Attached Document)
- VBEMS Jump Bag with CPAP
- (2) E Sized Oxygen Bottles from VBGH
- Standing Orders from ER Attending Physician for RSI and Extraordinary Measures Protocol
- LifePak 15 Monitor and Extra Batteries
- RSI Kit
- (2) Drug and IV Boxes
- Lucas Device
- Glidescope
- Autovent 3000

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Mustang Suit (When Water and Air Temperature are Less than 60 Degrees)
- Life Vest with Beacon Attached
- Flashlight
- Helmet

**MARINE MEDIC ACTIVATION**

Any EMS supervisor, Marine Police Sargent or their designee may request a Marine Medic based on case information that indicates a high likelihood that dive/marine operations will be necessary. This will expedite the response of a Marine Medic for the operation.

If a Marine Medic is on duty staffing an ambulance or zone car at the time of the request, EMS1/2/3 or their designee will immediately assign them to respond. The Marine Brigade Chief will coordinate with EMS1/2/3 or designee to provide a relief if required.

To activate off duty Marine Medics, EMS1/2/3, Marine Police Sargent or their designee will contact their respective dispatchers and have **MSTAFF** activated with pertinent event information included. Marine Medics will contact the Marine Brigade Chief upon receiving page with their availability. The Marine Brigade Chief will select the medic(s) and notify EMS1/2/3 or Marine Police Sargent of the Marine Medic assigned to the operation.

**ORDERED:**



2/28/2017

EMS Chief

Date