

## SCU Diving & Underwater Work – Field Guide

This guide provides essential safety requirements for staff, students, and contractors undertaking diving or underwater work at Southern Cross University. It must be read in conjunction with HRP18 Diving and Underwater Work , SCU Dive Manual and relevant WHS legislation.

### Before the Dive

- Ensure dive plan is completed, risk assessment approved, and permits (if required) are in place.
- Check all divers are medically fit, current dive medicals are held, and competencies are verified (e.g., ADAS/AS2299).
- Conduct a full pre-dive briefing including hazards, emergency signals, roles, and communication methods.
- Confirm safety equipment is available: oxygen kit, first aid kit, communications, standby diver.

### During the Dive

- Follow the approved dive plan and safe work procedures at all times.
- Maintain constant communication with surface support and other divers.
- Ensure a standby diver is ready and fully equipped during all occupational dives.
- Monitor divers for fatigue, cold stress, and signs of decompression illness.

### Emergency Preparedness

- Have a documented emergency response plan covering rescue, evacuation, and regulator notifications.
- Run emergency drills annually and record outcomes.
- Ensure oxygen resuscitation equipment and first aid personnel are on site.
- Report all notifiable incidents immediately to the WHS team and regulator.

### After the Dive

- Complete post-dive checks, including diver health assessment and equipment condition.
- Record all dives in dive logs; retain dive plans, risk assessments, and incident reports for a minimum of 5 years.
- Report hazards, near misses, or incidents promptly via SCU's reporting system.
- Debrief with the dive team and identify improvements for future dives.

Remember: Diving at SCU must comply with AS/NZS 2299.1, WHS legislation in QLD/NSW, and SCU procedures. If risks cannot be controlled – the dive must not proceed.