

# 1. Disclaimer

Emergency response diving generally is a hazardous activity requiring significant training, good physical fitness and a working knowledge of the inherent risk associated with these activities. This manual is not intended to and cannot replace a comprehensive training program conducted by a qualified instructor.

Neither the authors of this manual, Emergency Response Diving International (ERDI), Scuba Diving International (SDI), Technical Diving International (TDI), International Training (IT), nor any party associated with Emergency Response Diving International (ERDI), Scuba Diving International (SDI), Technical Diving International (TDI), International Training (IT) can nor will accept responsibility for accidents or injuries resulting from the use of the materials contained herein, the activity of scuba diving generally, or the activities associated with emergency response diving specifically.

## 1.1 Definitions

**Assistant or Assisted by** = A person who is assisting a primary and certified instructor, IT staff instructor or instructor trainer for a course that they, the "assistant", is not certified to teach. Assistants can be used for the purposes of additional supervision and to increase ratios where standards and environmental conditions allow. Assistants listed on registrations will receive experience credits for courses they have assisted with only if listed on the initial registration form.

**Co-Teach or 2nd Instructor** = A person who is certified to teach the course taking place and is working together with an also certified instructor, IT staff instructor or instructor trainer. The 2nd instructor will receive equal credit for the course if listed on the initial registration form.

**Student Prerequisites** = conditions that must be met by students prior to beginning a course. These conditions cannot be completed during the course unless specifically outlined in the standard. Conditions listed here cannot be waived by the instructor. Written standards waivers for prerequisites may be issued by the HQ training department depending on the course, dive site, and the specific prior experience of course participants.

## 1.2 ERDI Levels

Many of the ERDI programs can be taught at several levels in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines. The level of participation in the practical portion of the course will determine the final level of certification. The classification levels are:

1. Awareness.
2. Operations.

3. Technician.

All ERDI programs are available to public safety professionals regardless of their position within a department.

### **1.3 Awareness**

The Awareness level can be completed simply by doing the online academics for the ERDI course of interest. Upon completion of any of the online ERDI Academy courses, an individual will receive an awareness level certificate. For additional insight and understanding of the course, the individual can audit the practical session.

### **1.4 Operations**

The Operations level course requires the participant to complete the online academics and also participate in the non-diving segments of the Operations level course taught by an ERDI Instructor.

Depending on the program and individual is completing, this portion of the training shows how to properly perform and/or supervise non-diving emergency response duties.

### **1.5 Technician**

The Technician level is the final step and requires the participant to complete the required number of practical training sessions under the supervision of an ERDI Instructor. Here the individual will apply what they have learned during the awareness and skill-development sessions, while learning practical lessons that can only be gained.

**Note:** Cylinder capacities used in the ERDI Standards are based on manufacturer values or generalized conversions and are NOT exact conversions from metric to imperial due to variance in cylinder volume and working pressures.

If you use metric cylinders, please use the metric size cylinder listed; likewise, if you use imperial cylinders, please use the imperial size cylinder listed, I.E., 3 litres/18 cubic feet.