



Underwater Research Group of NSW

Health & Safety Framework Policy

Note the following directions:

1. The Safety Policy must be effectively communicated to all persons in the Underwater Research Group of NSW (URG) and made available to all interested persons.
2. This Policy should be signed by the President of the Underwater Research Group of NSW and a copy should be kept in any URG vehicles and on the URG website.



Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement

1. The Underwater Research Group of NSW (the **URG**) is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all members, contractors, visitors and other persons at each of its dive sites.
2. Safety is given top priority in our plans, programs, procedures and dive instructions.
3. The URG will make every reasonable effort in the areas of accident prevention, hazard control and removal, protection from injury, rehabilitation, health preservation and promotion.
4. A copy of this Policy Statement should be kept in any URG vehicles and posted on the URG's website.
5. Our objective is to sustain on an ongoing basis a zero incident rate.

The URG is committed to ensuring that;

- all hazards and risks to health and safety arising from the URG's activities are identified, assessed and effectively controlled;
- measures to control hazards and risks to health and safety are regularly monitored and evaluated;
- members are consulted and encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process on safety matters; and
- all members and visitors receive appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision they need to safely carry out their responsibilities.



6. The URG is committed to setting measurable objectives and targets to reduce health and safety risks and ensure continual improvement demonstrated through performance management and benchmarking for best practice.
7. The URG is committed to developing, implementing and maintaining an integrated safety, health and environmental safety system.
8. The URG is committed to providing equipment (boat and any towing vehicle) and substances (oxygen bottle) where health and safety factors have been considered, and risks have been minimised in a reasonable manner. .
9. The URG is committed to identifying and systemically minimizing all foreseeable hazards that may arise from the conduct of its dives and other activities which have the potential to harm the health and safety of persons lawfully at its dive sites.
10. The URG is committed to manage the risks to individuals conducting any boat maintenance and repair works by ensuring the people doing work on the boat are fit and competent and are aware of the importance of health and safety.
11. The URG is committed, as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that any diver in the club has proof of their training and qualification through diving certification issued by a reputable training organisation, and has a reasonable level of experience before diving in the open ocean with URG.
12. The URG is committed, as far as is reasonably practicable, to remind divers on the URG boat to carry out safe diving practices, including:
 - having a dive plan in place
 - dive in a buddy system (diving alone is discouraged)
 - carry a safety sausage (SMB) for safely ascending back to the boat
 - dive with a timing device, depth gauge, and tank pressure gauge (SPG)
 - practice no-decompression dives
 - divers being aware of emergency procedures



- members encouraged to do at least one safety stop on all dives for 3 minutes at 5 meters depth
- DAN membership is recommended and encouraged
- Illegal substances are not permitted on any diving event
- Alcohol may not be consumed before or during a dive.
- Observe marine life while diving but do not disturb, chase or harass animals
- Not perform any spearfishing from the boat

Monitoring and Measuring

13. To ensure the Safety Policy remains relevant and appropriate the URG is committed to regularly reviewing and improving the Policy.

Communication

14. The URG is committed to consulting its members on matters affecting their health and safety.

Implementation

15. Each committee member is required to ensure this policy and the safety programs are effectively implemented and to be accounted for their specific responsibilities.
16. All members of the URG are required to co-operate with the Safety Policy and programs and to take reasonable steps to ensure their own health and safety and the health and safety of others.



Signed: *P. Newman Haines* Date: 21.09.24
President

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Charlotte Elliott* Date: 21-Sep-2024
Vice President CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Sarah Han-de-Beaux* Date: 21-SEP-2024
Secretary SARAH HAN-DE-BEAUX

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Joshua Batchelor* Date: 21-9-2024
Treasurer Joshua Batchelor

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Harriet Cornwell* Date: 21/9/24
Committee Member Harriet Cornwell

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Vishal Shenvi Balkunje* Date: 21/09/2024
Committee Member VISHAL SHENVI BALKUNJE

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: *Charlotte Mills* Date: 21/09/24
Committee Member CHARLOTTE MILLS

Underwater Research Group of NSW

Signed: Date:

Committee Member

Underwater Research Group of NSW

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