



# NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

## CHAPTER: 46.9

### TITLE: MARINE SEARCH & RESCUE

**EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018**

**REVISED: Replaces Policy 831**

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#### PURPOSE

The Marine, Search and Rescue Unit is established for the purpose of recovering evidence, searching for lost or missing boaters, recovering bodies from area lakes and bayous, as well as retrieving submerged vehicles, evidence or other assignments as directed by the Superintendent of Police or his/her designee.

#### POLICY STATEMENT

1. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the lead agency on all maritime accidents occurring on state waterways. NOPD will coordinate with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide assistance as requested.
2. The Special Operations Division Marine Search and Rescue Unit is available on a 24 hour basis. The Special Operations Division Commander will provide a monthly roster of available call-out personnel to Communications Services.
3. Due to the hazardous nature of underwater operations, the SOD Commander shall determine if operations will be conducted in a particular body of water.
4. Command of Marine Search and Rescue Unit personnel on the scene of a dive will be the responsibility of the Team supervisor or the on scene SOD Commander.
5. Communications Services shall contact the Marine Search and Rescue Unit duty supervisor with the facts surrounding the request for service. The Marine Search and Rescue Unit supervisor will make a determination whether or not to initiate underwater, water born, or land based search/rescue operation.

#### OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

6. The officer on the scene shall contact his/her supervisor once it has been determined the assistance of the Marine Search and Rescue Unit is desired / needed.

#### SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

7. The requesting officer's supervisor shall proceed to the scene and obtain all pertinent

information from the officer prior to requesting the Marine Search and Rescue Unit.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

8. All reporting requirements, evidence transport and logging and scene documentation shall be the responsibility of the requesting officer and other Departmental support units (SCIS, CE&P, etc.).