

PADI Oxygen First Aid Distinctive Specialty

I. Course Overview

This course represents entry-level training designed to educate the general public to recognize possible aquatic related injuries and provide emergency oxygen first aid while activating the local Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and arranging for evacuation to the nearest medical facility.

II. Course Objective

The objective of this course is to train and educate the general diving public in entry-level techniques in the first aid management of suspected aquatic accidents using oxygen. In addition, this course will introduce participants to the fundamentals of aquatic accident, recognition, response and management. This program provides an excellent opportunity for experienced divers, and instructors to continue their education.

By the end of this course the student will be able to:

- A. Recognize the signs and symptoms of near drowning, arterial gas embolism, and decompression sickness.
- B. Demonstrate skill and confidence during the proper assembly, deployment, use and disassembly of all component parts of the Oxygen Unit, including the demand inhalator valve and mask, constant flow, non-rebreather mask, and pocket mask with supplementary oxygen inlet.
- C. Demonstrate skill and confidence while providing emergency oxygen to a simulated injured diver.
- D. Identify the 12 main component parts of the Oxygen Unit.

III. Course Requirements

1. Minimum age: 10
2. Recommended course hours: 4
3. Recommended retraining period: 24 months
4. Training dives: None
5. *Emergency First Response* Primary and Secondary Care or current certification in CPR/First Aid from a nationally recognized organization is **strongly recommended**
6. Maximum Student-to-Instructor Ratio: 12:1 during skill development sessions

IV. Student and Instructor Equipment

- A. Student Materials
 1. Pocket Mask and/or Barrier Kit.
- B. Instructor Materials
 1. Oxygen Training Equipment
 2. CPR Manikins