



AQUATIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AIMS)

Course Overview

The AIMS course equips responders with the critical skills, knowledge, and tools required to plan, manage, and execute aquatic search and recovery operations. Through a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on equipment training, and real-world scenario execution, participants will gain expertise in managing complex water-based incidents with a focus on safety, technology, and teamwork.

Conceptual Framework

- Concept of Operations
- Incident Planning
- Legal Considerations
- Rescue vs. Recovery Determination
- Safety Assessment and Risk Mitigation
- Low Head Dams ("Drowning Machines")

Search Management

- Determining Search Urgency
- Interviewing Techniques
- Initial Planning Point (IPP)
- Establishing the Search Area
- Search Theory
- Water Characteristics & Calculating Water Dynamics
- Utilizing Statistical Data for Search Planning

Search Strategies & Tools

- Mapping & Segmenting Search Areas
- Clue Documentation
- Use of Electronic ICS 204 Forms
- Data Uploads/Downloads & Management

Incident Command System (ICS)

- ICS Integration in Aquatic Incidents
- Sample ICS Organizational Charts
- Incident Action Plans (IAPs)
- Briefings, Debriefings & Safety Messages

Specialized Tools & Technology

- Metal Detectors
- Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs)
- Cameras & Lighting Systems
- Recovery Magnets

Tactical Applications

- HRD Canine (K9) Deployment
- Sonar Utilization:
 - Boat-Based Sonar Operations
 - Tow Fish Sonar
 - 360° Sweep Sonar
 - Live View/Active View Sonar

Resources & Personnel

- Sonar Operators
- HRD K9 Handlers
- SCUBA Divers:
 - Search Patterns
 - Rope Signals
 - Decontamination & Safety
 - Body Recovery Drags

Post-Incident Operations

- Investigative Considerations
- Debriefings
- Suspension of Operations
- Demobilization Procedures
- Hotwash & After Action Reviews (AARs)

Sonar Interpretation & Software Platforms

- Reading Sonar Imagery
- Reef Master
- SonarTRX
- SARVision Pro (AI-Driven Platform)

PROPOSED 3-DAY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Day 1 - Classroom Foundations

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Incident Management & ICS Overview
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Sonar Interpretation Lecture

Day 2 - Equipment & Field Training

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Equipment Familiarization (ROVs, Sonar, Cameras)
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: On-Water Practical Skills

Day 3 - Full-Scale Functional Exercise

- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Practical Skills at the Lake
- 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Scenario-Based Incident Simulation