



# Public Safety Scuba Instructor Application

Complete all information and enclose copies of all required documentation. **Incomplete applications will not be processed!** Completion and submission of this application is not a confirmation of your acceptance into the Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) program. Dive Rescue International reserves the right to deny admission to the program to any individual who does not meet all eligibility requirements. Candidates will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the PSSI program. **Completed PSSI Applications must be received no later than 45 days prior to your scheduled class start date in order to allow time for processing and provide adequate preparation time for the candidate.**

PSSI Course Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

## Department / Team Affiliation

Department / Team \_\_\_\_\_ Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This application does NOT guarantee your acceptance into the program. You will be notified of your acceptance after your application has been approved.

## Diving Certifications

Open-Water Certification Certifying Agency \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dive Rescue I Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Med Dive Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructor Ratings  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Certifying Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Certifying Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Certifying Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Certifying Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tuition

Are you applying for PSSI crossover certification?  Yes  No  
 Enclosed is my full payment of \$  PSSI Tuition \$925  PSSI Crossover Training \$675

## Payment Information

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  Department Card Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personal Card  
 Purchase Order Number \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide a copy of the PO with registration  
 Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Your PSSI Instructor material, pre-course study guide, recommended reading material and lecture requirements will be shipped upon approval of your completed application and paid tuition. Candidates can expect shipping and processing time of 10-14 days for this material (within the USA). Orders to Canada and outside of the contiguous US may require additional shipping time. Candidates may request expedited shipping however the applicant is responsible for any additional shipping fees. A credit card, Dive Rescue International account or Department Purchase Order is required for expedited shipments.

**The following support documents are required at the time of registration**

- Complete PSSI Application
- Diving Resume - List any PSD and/or military diving experience (with copies of certificates, agency supervisor name), & other dive certifications (type, agency, date, & student number).
- Copy of PSD or Diver certification card
- Copy of Passport (ID) Photograph emailed or mailed with application to the Education Department
- Copy of Department Sponsorship/Liability Letter
- Proof of Current First Aid **and** CPR Training **or** EMT **or** Paramedic Certification(s)
- Completed Medical Form with Physician's Signature
- Copy of Current Dive Rescue I Certificate
- Copy of Med Dive Certificate
- Documentation of last 100 open water dives (At least 50% should be training or operational)
- Copy of Current Instructor Certification (for crossover certification)
- Signed copy of Candidate Acknowledgement form

I declare the information contained in this application to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Prior to signing this application, I verify that I have read the four (4) page PSSI pamphlet that accompanied this application and fully understood its contents and I have contacted Dive Rescue International to obtain answers to my questions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Submit Application To**

Dive Rescue International  
Educational Services  
201 N. Link Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
Fax (970) 482-0893

## **Other Inquiries**

(800) 248 3483  
info@DiveRescueIntl.com



# Public Safety Scuba Instructor Application

## The PSSI Program

*The PSSI certification meets or exceeds all instructor requirements as outlined by the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC).*

Dive Rescue International developed the Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) program over 20 years ago to fill a need in the public safety diving field for job-specific, public safety dive training. The PSSI program is an intensive, five-day course designed specifically to prepare and certify instructor candidates to teach the fundamental skills of open water diving for the purpose of certifying Public Safety Divers (PSD). Instructor candidates who successfully complete PSSI training are qualified to teach the classroom, pool, open water and evaluation/testing phases of the PSD program to department personnel. Through Dive Rescue International, the PSSI issues PSD certifications, PSD recertifications (required every three years) and PSD Crossover certifications to team members who already hold recreational diving certificates. The PSSI program provides public safety agencies the means to train, certify and re-certify their dive team members as PSDs when needed. PSDs who successfully complete this training are issued certification cards through Dive Rescue International.

## Meeting the Unique Challenges of Public Safety Divers

The PSSI and PSD programs are tailored specifically to meet the needs of public safety water rescue teams. Unlike recreational diving, PSDs must be prepared to function at a moments notice under a variety of challenging and hazardous environmental conditions including: adverse weather, zero visibility and contaminated water using specialized equipment under physical and emotional strain. The PSSI provides the training and education to equip PSDs with the skills necessary to meet these challenges. The PSSI/PSD programs meet or exceed National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents (1999 Edition) and NFPA 1006, Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications (2000).

## Benefits for Your Team and Department

A distinguishing feature of the PSSI/PSD program is, that in cooperation with Dive Rescue International, the training is controlled by the PSSIs sponsoring agency or department. It allows the PSSI the flexibility to offer training when needed according to your department training schedule for any number of department members. The PSSI and PSD program can help reduce the liability exposure of a team that engages in public safety diving operations. Dive teams who are trained to standards that address the specialized challenges of public safety diving are less likely to become victims of tragedy and/or costly litigation. Note: Only members of a sponsoring agency or authorized department may be trained by the PSSI. All PSSIs must function on behalf of their sponsoring agency or department in order to obtain training and certification materials from Dive Rescue International.

## Dive Rescue International

Dive Rescue International was founded in 1977 in response to a growing need for high quality water rescue and recovery training designed specifically for public safety agencies. The training curriculum taught by Dive Rescue International is based on a combination of industry standards, tested and proven operational procedures and real world applications. Dive Rescue International continues to train and consult with hundreds of local, municipal, state and federal law enforcement, fire rescue and other specialized rescue teams. Dive Rescue International's corporate training staff is comprised of professionals from fire rescue, law enforcement, emergency medical services and other emergency service disciplines. Our corporate trainers are actively involved in their department's water rescue, recovery and investigative units.

## **PSSI Program and Format**

The PSSI training program is designed for the professional public safety educator and diver. Instructor candidates should arrive at class with a solid, well-established foundation of public speaking, teaching and knowledge of the education process. The PSSI candidate should spend a considerable amount of time in preparation for class as well as during the weeklong program to successfully obtain the PSSI certification.

Minimum Course Hours:

Pre-Course Study	60+ hours
5-Day Course	74 hours
Total	134+ hours

## **Diving Knowledge, Skills and Techniques**

Mastery of diving knowledge is required of all PSSI candidates. These topics include: gas laws, nitrogen narcosis, decompression sickness, decompression physiology, pulmonary barotrauma, repetitive dive tables, air consumption calculations, the underwater environment and scuba equipment design, selection and use.

## **Classroom Participation**

The PSSI classroom format includes lectures, discussions and hands-on activities. The PSSI candidate should be prepared to ask questions, participate in discussions and be actively involved in all phases of the education process. A portion of the candidate's final grade will be an evaluation of participation and communication skills.

## **Teaching Techniques and Lecture Skills**

An effective educator is also an excellent communicator. Instructor candidates should possess a strong foundation of teaching and communication skills prior to arrival at class. Candidates will polish and refine their teaching techniques during the program by giving impromptu lectures, leading discussions, and receiving feedback from fellow students and instructors. The candidate's ability to effectively teach and lecture is a significant part of the final grade.

## **Pool and Open Water Skills**

PSSI candidates are expected to be physically fit and possess mastery level scuba skills upon arrival at class. Students will demonstrate their watermanship and scuba skills both in the pool and open water. During the program, candidates will learn to teach, evaluate and test specific skin and scuba diving skills, both in the pool and open water settings.

## **Preparing for the PSSI Program**

Instructor materials, a suggested reference and reading list, a Pre-Course Study Guide and Day One Presentation Guide will be sent to all instructor candidates who submit a full and complete application. Instructor candidates are expected to complete the following pre-course work prior to the class: 1) PSD student workbook, 2) PSD Recert Notebook. The PSSI candidate will take several written exams throughout the course of the week including a pre-test on day one to assess the candidate's baseline knowledge. A final exam is administered on the last day of class. Instructor candidates must obtain a passing grade of 85% or above on the final examination in order to successfully complete the class.

## **How To Apply and Register for the PSSI Program**

The first step in applying to the PSSI program is to satisfy the course prerequisites and gather the necessary supporting documentation. Submit a completed application and copies of supporting materials directly to Dive Rescue International along with a method of payment (department purchase order, credit card, or check). Incomplete applications will not be processed. Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the program. The instructor material, pre-class study guide, suggested reading material, and Day One Presentation Guide will be shipped upon receipt of a complete application.

***Please note that receipt of a completed application is not a confirmation of acceptance into the PSSI program. Dive Rescue International reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who does not meet eligibility requirements of the program.***

## **Special Considerations**

The PSSI certification is earned on the basis of performance during the program. Students will not be awarded certifications for mere attendance in the course. In this way, Dive Rescue International preserves the quality and integrity of the PSSI and PSD programs. This high standard reaffirms Dive Rescue International's commitment to present and future PSSI's. Graduates of the program are certified as Public Safety Scuba Instructors through Dive Rescue International for a (renewable) three (3) year period. As such, PSSI's are authorized to instruct, certify and re-certify Public Safety Divers in conjunction with their departmental or team affiliation. To maintain high standards of quality, PSSI's must: 1) teach at least one PSD program every three years, 2) maintain an affiliation with their sponsoring agency, 3) maintain proficiency/certification in basic First Aid and CPR or EMT or Paramedic certification. 4) Maintain Dive Rescue 1 certification 5) complete PSSI re-certification package per schedule (once every three years).

## **PSSI Crossover for Certified Instructors**

If a PSSI candidate is already a diving instructor certified by an accredited member of the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC), and meets all other prerequisites for the PSSI program, the candidate is eligible to enroll in the course for a reduced tuition. Candidates who qualify must provide documentation of their current diving instructor certification as part of the required prerequisite documentation.

## **The Department's Role in Training**

The PSSI program is unique in that, in cooperation with Dive Rescue International, the Public Safety Scuba Instructor's department or agency maintains control over all PSSI activities. Only eligible department or agency personnel may be trained by the PSSI. In this way, the sponsoring department is assured full control of its investment in training while ensuring a high level of quality. Public Safety Diving courses may be scheduled at the convenience of the sponsoring department or agency. The PSSI is required to order a new PSD student kit directly from Dive Rescue International for each diver certified. The PSD kits include all class and certification materials. PSSI's are required to retain and maintain all student records for a minimum of a seven-year period. Instructor and student records are periodically audited by Dive Rescue International to maintain a high standard of quality and assure compliance with established training standards.

## **Prerequisites for the PSSI Program**

Successful PSSI applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

### **Department Affiliation**

The candidate must be a current member of a public safety department or agency who provides rescue, recovery, law enforcement or fire suppression services to a municipal or government entity (written confirmation may be required).

### **Department Sponsorship / Insurance**

PSSI candidates must provide a sponsorship letter on department letter head that states the instructor is sponsored by their public safety agency and is covered by the department's liability or self insurance (sample letter enclosed). In the event that the department does not carry its own liability insurance a sponsorship letter is still required. The instructor must secure their own professional liability insurance that names Dive Rescue International as a co-insured (contact Dive Rescue International for more details).

### **Performance is evaluated in four (4) areas:**

1. Professionalism
2. Lecture Skills
3. Scuba Skills
4. Final Exam Score (85% or above)

## Age

The instructor candidate must be at least 21 years of age by the beginning date of class.

## Minimum Diver Certification

The PSSSI candidate must hold at minimum an Open Water Certification from a nationally accredited certifying agency. Documentation of this certification is required with your application. Copies of a diver's log with a minimum of 100 logged open water dives must be submitted with the application. A minimum of 50% should be training or operational.

## First Aid and CPR Training

The candidate must provide documentation of successful completion and current certification of at a minimum, basic CPR and First Aid training or EMT or Paramedic certification(s).

## Medical Examination

The PSSSI candidate must provide documentation of a current medical examination performed by a licensed physician that includes the physician's signature (medical examination form enclosed).

## Certifications

A copy of the candidate's current Dive Rescue I Specialist certification and Med Dive Specialist certificate must be provided with their application or by the beginning of class.

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# Sample Sponsorship Letter

MUST BE ON DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD  
and contain the following paragraphs!

### Date

Dive Rescue International  
Attn: Education Department  
201 North Link Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80524-2712

Dive Rescue International,

This will confirm that **(name)**, an employee of **(department)** is instructing Public Safety Diver to our employees in his/her capacity as a certified Public Safety Scuba Instructor.

**(Name)** is covered for instructor liability exposure while acting in his/her capacity as an employee of **(department)**. The trainer is defended by the agency self insurance or insured liability coverage.

**(Department)** understands that it is our responsibility to notify Dive Rescue International of changes in this coverage or this employee's status as an employee or instructor.

If you should have any questions on this matter please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
**(Department Name)**

Supervisor's Signature

(Supervisor's Name)  
(Supervisor's Position)



# Public Safety Scuba Instructor Candidate Acknowledgement

The Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) program is a demanding and very rewarding program. To better prepare you for this training experience we have outlined the most common topics and questions pertaining to this program. Please review each paragraph and initial each item then sign and date the form at the bottom. Make a copy for your records and return the original to Dive Rescue with your completed instructor application. Please contact the education department at 1-800-248-3483 if you have any questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ The PSSI program requires a minimum of sixty (60) dedicated hours of pre-course study prior to arriving the first morning of class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your completed Instructor Application should be submitted at least (45) days prior to the start of class. This will allow adequate time to prepare for class. After your completed application is received, your Instructor Materials, Study Guide and Day One Presentation Guide will be sent to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ You are expected to arrive at class with Instructor level knowledge of scuba diving. You should possess a strong knowledge base of the following topics: Instructor Methods, Skin & Scuba Diving Equipment, Diving Physics, Decompression Physiology, Air Consumption, Aquatic Environment, and Emergency Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_ The PSSI program is both mentally and physically challenging. Each day of the program is approximately 16 hours long. This is may include classroom/pool/open water time. Additional study time is required after classroom/pool/open water sessions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Due to the intense nature of the PSSI training program we discourage the instructor candidate from registering for the Dive Rescue I Trainer program at the same time. The DRI Trainer program is an intense week with similar prerequisites and schedule as PSSI.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Medical Statement requires a physician's signature. (see enclosure). Additionally the questionnaire requires the words "yes" or "no" written next to each of the questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the PSSI Instructor Candidate Acknowledgement agreement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



UNDERSEA &  
HYPERBARIC  
MEDICAL  
SOCIETY



## MEDICAL STATEMENT

Participant Record (Confidential Information)

This is a statement in which you are informed of some potential risks involved in scuba diving and of the conduct required of you during the scuba training program. Your signature on this statement is required for you to participate in the scuba training program offered by Dive Rescue International.

Read this statement prior to signing it. You must complete this Medical Statement, which includes the medical questionnaire section, to enroll in Dive Rescue International diving programs.

Diving is an exciting and demanding activity. When performed correctly, applying correct techniques, it is relatively safe. When established safety procedures are not followed, however, there are increased risks.

### Medical Questionnaire

The purpose of this Medical Questionnaire is to find out if you should be examined by your doctor before participating in professional diver training. A positive response to a question does not necessarily disqualify you from diving. A positive response means that there is a preexisting condition that may affect your safety while diving and you must seek the advice of your physician prior to engaging in dive activities.

This form has been standardized among our diving and non-diving courses. If this form is being used for a non-diving course, some of these conditions may not be applicable.

- Could you be pregnant, or are you attempting to become pregnant?
- Are you presently taking prescription medications? (with the exception of birth control or anti-malarial)
- Are you over 45 years of age and can answer YES to one or more of the following?
  - currently smoke a pipe, cigars or cigarettes
  - have a high cholesterol level
  - have a family history of heart attack or stroke
  - are currently receiving medical care
  - high blood pressure
  - diabetes mellitus, even if controlled by diet alone

Have you ever had or do you currently have...

- Asthma, or wheezing with breathing, or wheezing with exercise?
- Frequent or severe attacks of hay fever or allergy?
- Frequent colds, sinusitis or bronchitis?
- Any form of lung disease?
- Pneumothorax (collapsed lung)?
- Other chest disease or chest surgery?
- Behavioral health, mental or psychological problems (Panic attack, fear of closed or open spaces)?
- Epilepsy, seizures, convulsions or take medications to prevent them?
- Recurring complicated migraine headaches or take medications to prevent them?
- Blackouts or fainting (full/partial loss of consciousness)?
- Frequent or severe suffering from motion sickness (seasick, carsick, etc.)?

To scuba dive safely, you should not be extremely overweight or out of condition. Diving can be strenuous under certain conditions. Your respiratory and circulatory systems must be in good health. All body air spaces must be normal and healthy. A person with coronary disease, a current cold or congestion, epilepsy, a severe medical problem or who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs should not dive. If you have asthma, heart disease, other chronic medical conditions or you are taking medications on a regular basis, you should consult your doctor and the instructor before participating in this program, and on a regular basis thereafter upon completion. You will also learn from the instructor the important safety rules regarding breathing and equalization while scuba diving. Improper use of scuba equipment can result in serious injury. You must be thoroughly instructed in its use under direct supervision of a qualified instructor to use it safely.

If you have any additional questions regarding this Medical Statement or the Medical Questionnaire section call Dive Rescue International at 800 248-3483.

Please answer the following questions on your past or present medical history with a **YES** or **NO**.

Should any of these items apply to you, a physician's signature will be required to participate in the diving portions of the program.

- Dysentery or dehydration requiring medical intervention?
- Any dive accidents or decompression sickness?
- Inability to perform moderate exercise (example: walk 1.6 km/one mile within 12 mins.)?
- Head injury with loss of consciousness in the past five years?
- Recurrent back problems?
- Back or spinal surgery?
- Diabetes?
- Back, arm or leg problems following surgery, injury or fracture?
- High blood pressure or take medicine to control blood pressure?
- Heart disease?
- Heart attack?
- Angina, heart surgery or blood vessel surgery?
- Sinus surgery?
- Ear disease or surgery, hearing loss or problems with balance?
- Recurrent ear problems?
- Bleeding or other blood disorders?
- Hernia?
- Ulcers or ulcer surgery ?
- A colostomy or ileostomy?
- Recreational drug use or treatment for, or alcoholism in the past five years?

The information I have provided about my medical history is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree to accept responsibility for omissions regarding my failure to disclose any existing or past health condition.

Signature

Date

Emergency Contact

Phone Number



# STUDENT

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**Please print legibly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
First Initial Last Day/Month/Year

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province/Region \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

## **Name and address of your family physician**

Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic/Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last physical examination \_\_\_\_\_

Name of examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic/Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever required to have a physical for diving?  Yes  No If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

# PHYSICIAN

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This person applying for training or is presently certified to engage in scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) diving. Your opinion of the applicant's medical fitness for scuba diving is requested. There are guidelines attached for your information and reference.

## **Physician's Impression**

I find no medical conditions that I consider incompatible with diving.

I am unable to recommend this individual for diving.

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Signature or Legal Representative of Medical Practitioner Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Day/Month/Year

Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic/Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_