DAN
DIVERS ALERT NETWORK

Pre-Dive Briefings

Use the following checklist to assist your dive business to prepare comprehensive pre-dive briefings

No.	Element	Recommendation
1	Identify dive staff and crew	• Identify dive staff and crew, including their roles.
2	Dive site, plan, and objectives	• The purpose of the dive and any objectives • About the dive site including hazardous marine life, currents, visibility, specific risks, and points of interest • Dive plan/profile including depth, turn time/pressure, any gas planning considerations (e.g., deco obligations)
3	Review Emergency Procedures	• Emergency procedures in case of equipment failure • Lost buddy procedures • Recall procedures and signals • Location of first aid equipment / O_2 unit / AED • Location of other emergency equipment • Review of relevant EAPs (Emergency Action Plans) • Contingency plan for unexpected situations or emergencies
4	Diver count procedures	• Dive operators should institute and inform their divers of a system to ensure that all divers are accounted for on the boat after each dive (e.g., by using diver ID system).
5	Gas analysis	• Analyze gas mixes and verify mix is appropriate for the dive (even when diving air)
6	Equipment requirements	• Verify specialized equipment needed for this type of dive (e.g., Dive lights, cutting tools, speargun, camera, wreck reel, DSMB, redundant gas supplies, etc.) • Review usage as needed
7	Communication Plan	• Communication techniques to be used during the dive (e.g., hand signals, dive slates, noise makers, light signals) • Protocol for signaling distress or requesting assistance • Review key signals (OK, problem, ascend/descend, how much air & response, abort, safety/deco stop, low/out of air, danger/abort dive
8	Self- and/or buddy-checks	Dive operators should ensure that buddy-checks are performed before every dive, including: • Diver readiness to dive (e.g., questions or concerns about the dive) • BCD is functioning, secured, and partially inflated before entry into the water • The location of releases for weights are identified • Proper weighting, weight belt/system is secured, and able to be released in an emergency • Mask and snorkel are present • The cylinder valve is fully open and contents checked • Regulator is functioning, and mouthpiece is secure • An alternate air source is functional and accessible • Fins are on and secure before entry. • Instructors or divemasters should physically double-check novice or uncertified divers.
9	Water entry and exit procedures	• Fully inform divers of proper entry and exit procedures specific to the dive • Manage entry into the water to prevent slips, falls, or other injuries • Prevent entanglement with ropes • Final check that cylinder is open and diver is ready prior to entry
10	Environmental Considerations	• Environmental hazards • Neutral buoyancy • Don't touch • Minimize impact to the ecosystem • Conservation efforts under way