

HIRA Level I for Dive Businesses

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

1. Boat safety briefing

Education on boating and shore diving procedures is vital to ensure an incident-free dive outing. Thorough boat or shore briefings should be conducted.

2. Pre-dive safety briefing

A pre-dive safety briefing is the final opportunity to convey important information about the dive to customers. The risk of an accident occurring increases when divers are not properly briefed on safety protocols and proper diving procedures.

3. Head count using standardized system

The risk of failing to retrieve all divers who enter the water is constantly present, but it is elevated when operations take place in busy areas, in rough waters, and/or during inclement weather. Regardless of the conditions, a reliable system should be used to ensure that all divers are accounted for at the conclusion of every dive, such as a diver ID system.

4. Post-dive debriefing

Post-dive debriefings should be completed to ensure that customers are thoroughly informed of symptoms of DCI that could manifest after the dive. Denial or dismissal of symptoms could result in delayed treatment, so it is important to educate customers on the signs and symptoms of DCI, barotrauma, etc. Post-dive debriefings should also include a discussion on activities that must be avoided after diving, including flying, hot showers, driving over altitude, or excessive exercise. Failure to conduct a thorough post-dive debriefing may result in exposure to legal liability.