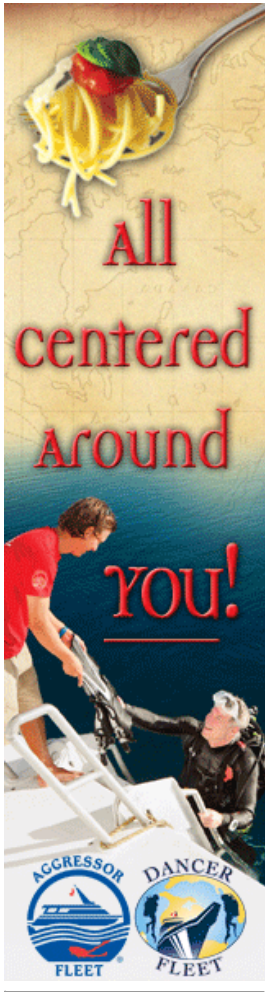




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Thread: Diver Training: How much is enough?

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Yesterday, 03:02 PM

#261

endurodog

Scuba Instructor



hasn't set a status.



Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Colorado
Posts: 331

Since we have drifted into the definition of a diver I thought I would put up the one from dictionary.com

div-er

/ˈdaɪvər/ Show Spelled [dahy-ver] Show IPA noun 1. a person or thing that dives.

2. a person who makes a business of diving, as for pearl oysters or to examine sunken vessels.

3. British . a loon.

4. any of several other birds noted for their skill in diving.

Origin:

1500-10; dive + -er¹

Now adding on to that changes the definition. So may say "what I consider a diver" or something of the sort. It has been said that I fit the 3rd definition best

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Yesterday, 03:37 PM

#262

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 Classes forming
 now!

Tahiti diving vacation
www.etahitravel...
 Best diving safari in
 south Pacific Book
 with the local
 specialist

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 Hands-On Training
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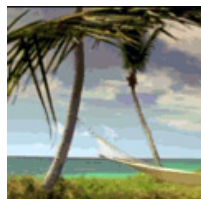


jar546

Scuba Instructor



Trying to never be complacent



Join Date: Aug 2010
 Location: South Florida
 Posts: 1,485
 Dives: I'm a Fish!
 Photos: 20

Diver Training: How much is enough?

Let us remember that there is no law that requires someone to be certified in order to dive. Pete (NetDoc) can certainly attest to that. There are still plenty of scuba diving individuals (notice I did not call them "divers" Trace) who are not certified. Just look at mini season in Florida. Anyone can buy the gear, including a compressor and away they go. You may have trouble getting on a few dive boats but other than that, not a problem. You may get fined for not having a dive flag but you won't get fined for not being certified.

With that being said, we can create all of the training and standards that we want but that won't fix the problem. The industry is self regulating. Shops and dive boats have to band together to enforce their own self imposed rules to police the ranks of divers. Refusing to let a non-certified individual or a new diver on a boat or to fill their tanks or rent them gear is the only way to have any effect. That is already happening to a degree.

If the standards are increased (I agree some should be) then what do we do with the millions who were certified under the "old" system? If you haven't guessed by now, I'm a realist. As I eluded to before, there are a lot of opinions and ideas here but I still ask you exactly what it would take to change the industry? Can it be changed? It seems as though instructors complain about standards and students and divers complain about other divers. Everyone thinks the other guy is the problem. I applaud those that decided they had enough of others and are just solo divers. Many are picky about who they dive with and rightfully should be. We all have horror stories about diving with other people. Some of us are the "other" people.

Just like instructors can pick and choose the students and type of training that they offer, divers can pick and choose where and with who they want to dive.

I may not agree with all of the standards for the agencies that I teach but, if instructors take the time to teach the skills and verify the students abilities bases on the intent of the standards, I think they will work just fine. The real learning always begins after the certification card is in their hand and they actually just dive.

Here is an idea: Cert cards expire every 3 years and in order to renew them you have to be recertified by being evaluated by an instructor. Instructors have to be reevaluated by trainers too. Yeah, let's see that happen. As a hockey ref I have to go to camp each and every year to sit in a class then retake the exam for the level I am working at. In addition, there are drills that we have to do on the ice in order to complete the process. At higher levels, our skating ability is critiqued significantly. If we don't pass the practical and academic portion, we are demoted down a level or not certified.

Thoughts?

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 The more I learn, the more I realize just how much I don't
<http://www.thebuildingcodeforum.com/forum/forum.php>

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Yesterday, 04:25 PM

#263

GShockey

Frequent Poster



Has not set a "status"

Join Date: Jul 2009
 Location: Vancouver Island
 Posts: 120
 Dives: 2,500 - 4,999

Originally Posted by **jar546**

Here is an idea: Cert cards expire every 3 years and in order to renew them you have to be recertified by being evaluated by an instructor. Instructors have to be reevaluated by trainers too. Yeah, let's see that happen. As a hockey ref I have to go to camp each and every year to sit in a class then retake the exam for the level I am working at. In addition, there are drills that we have to do on the ice in order to complete the process. At higher levels, our skating ability is critiqued significantly. If we don't pass the practical and academic portion, we are demoted down a

level or not certified.

Thoughts?

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Excellent idea!

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best,

Guy

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Yesterday, 04:35 PM

#264

NetDoc

Chairman of the Board



is dreamin about diving.



Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Key Largo, Florida, United States
Photos: 1429

Originally Posted by **TraceMalin**

Pete, I think that's also the definition of a "diver." A "real" diver is someone who can be counted on when things go wrong underwater.

Excluding alien invasions and the sun going nova! 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

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Solo otro día en el paraíso!
Hate wrapped in a prayer or sermon is still hate!
All you need is Love! 🇺🇸

Pete "NetDoc" Murray

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Yesterday, 05:28 PM

#265

boulderjohn

MSDT



Anxiously awaiting the winds of fortune

Join Date: Aug 2004
Location: Boulder, CO
Posts: 10,205

As someone who works in teacher education, I thought perhaps people will find two stories related to educational training of established teachers these days interesting.

The Two Processes

1. Because of the changing world of content standards in all 50 states, all schools have had to re-evaluate their curriculum and instruction. The process goes like this. First you examine the standards to understand fully what it is that students really need to know and be able to do. Next, you identify assessments--how can you assess precisely student performance on what the standards call for? Finally, you carefully design instruction so that you are sure that what you are teaching is aligned with what they need to

Dives: 500 - 999
Photos: 6

now and be able to do to perform well on the assessments. This includes examining current content and instruction to see to what degree it can be used or modified.

2. In teaching the concepts of standards-based assessment, I start workshops with a brainstorming session on assessment and grading. I ask people to spout out the reasons we have assessment and (especially) grading. I am careful to make sure that everyone's ideas are listed. I ask them to make certain they have left nothing out. Then we look at current grading practices and the theories behind standards based assessment and grading.

What Happens

1. Teachers learn that many of their favorite lessons, the ones they love to teach, are not well aligned to the standards--they are not teaching students what they need to know, and they are often teaching things that have surprisingly little to do with what the students really need to know. When they realize that, though, only a minority embrace that learning. The majority dig in their heels and fight for the legitimacy of what they have always been doing, coming up with values for that instruction that have nothing to do with what was previously identified as being what students need to know and be able to do.

2. When they see that traditional grading practices do not do a good job of achieving the purposes they had identified at the beginning of the workshop, and when they see that standards-based assessment and grading achieves them beautifully, most of them go absolutely off the wall. They start shouting out the reasons why it is critical to stay with the traditional approach. Not one of the reasons they cite were on their original list of purposes for assessment and grading. For them, that original list is no longer valid, and the reasons they are coming up with now are the only things that count.

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[rotuner](#) and [Hawkwood](#) like this.

John Adsit
Boulder, Colorado
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Yesterday, 06:07 PM

#266

NetDoc

Chairman of the Board



is dreamin about diving.



Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Key Largo, Florida,
United States
Photos: [1429](#)

Originally Posted by [boulderjohn](#)

The majority dig in their heels and fight for the legitimacy of what they have always been doing,

Say it isn't so, bro!!! Surely, Scuba Instructors have a more open mind than this! 🤔🤔🤔

Last edited by NetDoc; Yesterday at 08:14 PM.

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Solo otro día en el paraíso!
Hate wrapped in a prayer or sermon is still hate!
All you need is Love! 🇺🇸

Pete "NetDoc" Murray

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Yesterday, 06:44 PM

#267

jar546 ◦

Scuba Instructor



Trying to never be complacent



Join Date: Aug 2010
Location: South Florida
Posts: 1,485
Dives: I'm a Fish!
Photos: 20

Diver Training: How much is enough?

Originally Posted by **NetDoc**

Say bit isn't so, bro!!! Surely, Scuba Instructors have a more open mind than this! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Hence the problem with educators of all types. Embrace change for the right reasons

Sent from my iPad using Tapataalk HD

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<http://www.sportscuba.com>
The more I learn, the more I realize just how much I don't
<http://www.thebuildingcodeforum.com/forum/forum.php>

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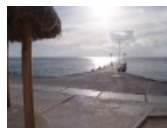
#268

Scott ◦

Scuba Instructor



Acknowledges your status.



Join Date: Dec 2007
Location: Salt Lake City
Posts: 1,257
Dives: 2,500 - 4,999
Photos: 10

Originally Posted by **jar546**

*Here is an idea: Cert cards expire every 3 years and in order to renew them you have be recertified by being evaluated by an instructor. **Instructors have to be reevaluated by trainers too. Yeah, let's see that happen.** As a hockey ref I have to go to camp each and every year to sit in a class then retake the exam for the level I am working at. In addition, there are drills that we have to do on the ice in order to complete the process. At higher levels, our skating ability is critiqued significantly. If we don't pass the practical and academic portion, we are demoted down a level or not certified.*

I know a number of stores that do exactly that. They want instructors to maintain a certain level of fitness, knowledge and quality. It is not all or nothing but they will take an element each year and at some point a CD/IT will audit a portion or a complete course to see the level of quality being taught, the next year the DM watermanship to a certain level and following year a standards exam. Every store could do this if they choose.

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utahscubadiver.com Utah's resource for local diving

Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change your life forever. Submitting is not a success, coming back alive is. ~ Alan Hinkes

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Today, 12:34 AM

#269

TraceMalin 

Tech Instructor



Going cave diving!



Join Date: Dec 2004
Location: Pocono Mountains
Posts: 1,168
Dives: 5,000 - ∞

 Originally Posted by **GShockey** 

Excellent idea!

Welcome | Global Underwater Explorers

best,

Guy

In theory, expiring C-cards seem like a good solution, but that concept fails to solve the problem of verifying that a diver can perform rescues. Going diving and meeting the quota for experience doesn't guarantee rescue readiness. What makes expiring C-cards effective for lifeguard courses is that the lifeguard hones important rescue skills that tend to get rusty every couple of years. For divers, maybe everyone should have to have Rescue and only the Rescue C-cards should expire?

One problem that I've found with the GUE method is that it makes it difficult for instructors who teach Tech 2 to remain current when they live in northern climates with shorter dive seasons. Fun dives often carry the pressure to make Tech 2 dives even if you'd rather do something else just in case you end up being short. They often come with great financial pressure as well. I think this is the biggest factor which creates instructor burn-out in the organization.

For the instructor level and above attending a renewal course every couple of years to put everyone on the same page again and hone rescue skills would be the way to go.

I think the industry would go for cards expiring every 5 years, but that's too long to accomplish the purpose of having C-cards expire. Three years would probably be the best trade-off between the PITA factor and retaining competency. Annually would be best, but too much of a PITA factor.

----- Post added December 26th, 2012 at 01:12 AM -----

John,

This has been something I've wanted to get your input on for a while and forget to bring it up. It may or may not be off-topic ...

My grandfather was born in 1899. He built his two-story house around a one-room school house with his own two hands. He could drive anything and fix a tractor, automobile, electric wiring, furnace, or just about anything you'd find on a farm. He could hunt and fish (tie flies and catch trout like mad) and grow anything and raise everything from chickens to horses. He could read without mispronouncing a word and write artfully with the Palmer method. He could also do most math in his head including adding columns of numbers. He had a high school education that was just 2 years after grammar school.

It takes my entire group of high school friends (maybe 7 to 10 guys) to make one of my grandfather. The thing is my grandfather was pretty typical for guys in his generation. No matter what academic educational theories or stats say, we all know that we aren't nearly as useful in society as our grandfathers.

I think if we asked them our educational system failed us.

I'm sure this topic comes up in your area of expertise. What's the deal? Are we too specialized today? Do you think that prior to the space race that public education was more community-oriented and then it became too much of a search for special little rainbows to become MIT jet propulsion engineers?

Obviously, we seem to know more than our grandfathers, but can do less. When it comes to "man standards" I don't know anyone today who could beat a good old-fashioned farmer in general usefulness.

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Trace Malinowski
PSAI Americas
International Training Director
ITD-007
[Scuba Coach Trace](#)

They say that nobody is perfect. Then they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their minds. -- Wilt Chamberlain

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Today, 07:34 AM

#270

-hh 

ScubaBoard Contributor



has too many UW photos 



Join Date: Jan 2003
Posts: 932

 Originally Posted by **jar546** 

That about sums it up. There are instructors for every category of divers. Yes, divers. They are all divers but in different classifications already established and changing every day.

As instructors, we can pick and choose who and at what level we want to train/coach/instruct/mentor/educate,etc., etc...There are simply too many scenarios out there.

Agreeable & understood .. although you also hit on the complexity of life: there's going to be challenges in providing the appropriate definitions of the products, which is going to be important for a few reasons (for the other dive professionals to easily know/understand just where an incoming customer is at, for customers to understand what the differences are between different classes (or different priced products), etc.)

Where the Industry has provided a disservice that makes this harder is that the as-implemented training standards have undoubtedly changed over the years, but the "identifier" (C-Card name) hasn't. Add to this non-uniformity the ability for the candidate to become better on their own...

 Originally Posted by **NetDoc** 

But it's impossible to train for those bad conditions when they simply don't exist here. Like I said, moving to Canuckistan is simply out of the question for me. I like it here!

One can always find a way to make good conditions bad ... its the reverse that's hard. For example, one can conduct low visibility drills with a blacked-out mask, or even one that's been smeared with vaseline. Similarly, the visibility limitations of a night dive can be performed in a pool ... by turning off the lights.

 Originally Posted by **TraceMalin** 

While I was out hiking amid snow covered pines beside a swiftly flowing brook this Christmas Day, I was thinking about this thread. I asked myself, "If I ran classes to my absolute minimum standards, leaving out all of the old school watermanship education, what would my goal be?"
...

On the first line, I thought that you were going to go a different direction with this, namely:

"As I was out hiking in the snow ... thoughts were - what is the minimum

that I need to conduct this hike successfully under today's {ideal} conditions, and what more should I be prudently carrying in case the weather turned?"

What this reminds me of is that just as we say that there's people who just want to blow bubbles and look at the fishes, there's also a lot of people who get themselves in trouble because they don't take prudent precautions when going into the woods - - as well as people who barely know which pedal in their car is for the gas versus the brake.

...a personal aside: many years ago, my wife came home from work and told me that something was wrong with her car that I needed to take a look at. Okay, so we go outside for the typical test drive around the block while I'm getting clues as to what the problem supposedly is; she says that the car is "...whining...". So we get in, pull out, head down the street and at around 20mph I notice that the car's automatic transmission hasn't upshifted into the next gear; push it up to 25 mph and she says:

"There's that WHINING sound!".

{I'm thinking "What? The transmission isn't shifting, that noise is just the engine's RPM"}}. I push it up to 30mph.

"There's that WHINING NOISE! Make it STOP!".

Okay, I slow down to a crawl, start to limp it home.

I explain that the transmission isn't shifting gears and that the noise was engine RPM. Then it hits me:

"Dear...by any chance did you drive all the way home on the Interstate with it making this noise?"

"Yes, but it was really loud".

"Ummm...by any chance, how FAST were you going?"

"It was so loud, I kept it down to 50mph"

Yes folks, 50mph in first gear ... it was probably redlined for most of that 25 mile drive, and we were lucky to have not lost the engine too.

This is an example of when a "license to operate" only meets minimal standards - - pedals & controls all were operated within training, afterall.

Originally Posted by **jar546**

...


Here is an idea: Cert cards expire every 3 years and in order to renew them you have to be recertified by being evaluated by an instructor. Instructors have to be reevaluated by trainers too. Yeah, let's see that happen. As a hockey ref I have to go to camp each and every year to sit in a class then retake the exam for the level I am working at. In addition, there are drills that we have to do on the ice in order to complete the process. At higher levels, our skating ability is critiqued significantly. If we don't pass the practical and academic portion, we are demoted down a level or not certified.

Thoughts?

If the Industry so chose to incur the expense, what could be adopted today would be annual physicals and swim tests for all professional levels that require them ... and do note that these could be effectively forced upon the Agencies overnight by the insurance companies.

But not that I really trust the insurance companies either: one simply just has to look at the provisions for obtaining life insurance to know that a lot of rates are set based on perceptions of risk and not objective data.

FWIW, another similar thing could probably be done with Rescue Diver - - one is only required to have CPR/1st Aid for the year in which the C-Card was issued.

 Originally Posted by **TraceMalin** 

I think the industry would go for cards expiring every 5 years, but that's too long to accomplish the purpose of having C-cards expire. Three years would probably be the best trade-off between the PITA factor and retaining competency. Annually would be best, but too much of a PITA factor.

The business side of the diving industry would fight this tooth & nail, as it would very promptly and clearly reveal the 'Emperor Has No Clothes' aspect of just how few truly active diving customers are out there.

-hh

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How much training is enough By shakeybrainsurgeon in forum New Divers and Those Considering Diving	Replies: 62 Last Post: September 30th, 2006, 03:17 PM
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