

2025 DIVE TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Year 2025 was marked with historic “100-year” flooding in the month of August which increased operational tempo for the Dive Team. The Dive Team responded to 127 dive runs in 2025. During the 24-hour period of the flooding, the dive team responded to 115 water rescues, split between two separate units.

The Dive Team maintained diver readiness through rigorous monthly training and recertifications across the three disciplines of dive rescue, swift water, and ice rescue. A recruit class of six graduated and were certified to join the team. The Dive Team is extremely proud of the selection of four of its members for promotion to Lieutenant, adding them to the roster of Dive Team Officers. The Dive Team continued its close cooperation with the Boat Team through joint training throughout the year.

SIGNIFICANT PURCHASES

- Surface Rescue Personnel Watercraft
- 8 Dry Suits
- Cold weather diving gear for all new members
- Upgraded underwater communications system

NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- Upgraded all dive masks to be surface-air-capable
- Certified all team members as DRI Dive Rescue 1 Specialists
- Two members graduated from the Public Safety Scuba Instructor Course
- Six members graduated from the Dive Recruit Class with Public Safety Diver and Dive Rescue 1 Specialist Certifications
- Four members attended the Midwest Public Safety Diver Association Conference with one MFD Dive Team member elected to the governing board
- Provided dive and surface rescue for multiple events including the annual “Polar Plunge,” the USAT Sprint and Olympic National Championship, and the Milwaukee Air Show
- Truck 2 and Dive Team members raised Santa in the bucket on Christmas Day at Children’s Hospital so that he could wave to the children in the cancer ward; the families always appreciate seeing their children’s faces light up. Some purchased superhero costumes and “took flight” in a Wauwatosa Fire Department bucket to do the same.