

Statistics

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office Dive –Rescue & Recovery Team currently consists of 10 Public Safety Divers, 2 Surface Technicians and one Shore Master. These team members are a combination of certified law enforcement officers, corrections officers and dispatchers.

On average, the Dive Team responds to two or more reported drownings annually and approximately 12 other calls for service during any given year.

Allegan County Waters

Divers are prone to exposure in various types of waters within and around Allegan County. These waters include 25 miles of Lake Michigan, over 277 inland lakes which are 2 acres or more in size, the Kalamazoo, Rabbit & Black Rivers and other smaller rivers, streams and tributaries; not to mention a vast amount of smaller farm ponds and pools. Many of these bodies of water are contaminated and have low to zero visibility.

Budget & Funding

The Sheriff's Office Dive Team currently functions on a minimal annual budget of just \$2000.00 which was cut in 2008 by 60%. This budget has not increased over the past 14 years even though the costs of maintaining current equipment, replacing worn equipment and purchasing new equipment has risen dramatically.

In addition to the county budget, the Dive Team works to obtain outside funding in the way of grants and fundraisers in order to operate safely. The Dive Team does gladly accept donations of gently used or new equipment as well as monetary donations.

For more information go to:
www.allegancounty.org/sheriff



Allegan County Sheriff's Office

DIVE—RESCUE & RECOVERY TEAM



The mission of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office Dive / Rescue & Recovery Team is to responsibly serve the citizens in Allegan County by maintaining a level of response readiness for water-related emergencies, underwater body recovery and evidence recovery operations; while keeping its members properly trained and without compromising diver safety.

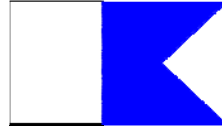


Public Safety Dive Teams



Public Act 139 of 1947, Section 51.301 requires all Sheriffs to be responsible for the recovery of all drowned bodies in waters situated within their respective county. Since that time, law enforcement has seen a dramatic need for rescue & recovery divers due to increased activities around waterways.

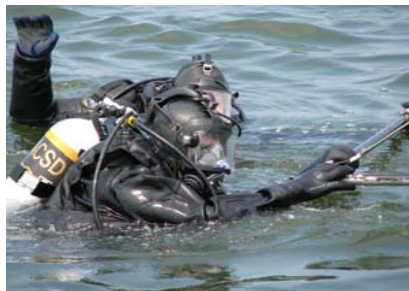
Allegan County's Dive Team



In 1960, the Sheriff of Allegan County began a formal dive team with three members. This lasted until 1979 where the team's membership grew with the increasing activities upon our waterways.

Along with these increased activities came more responsibility from law enforcement aside from recovering drowned bodies from the water.

Divers are now involved with initial rescue—thanks to modern medicine's discovery which proves that the cold waters of Michigan can actually preserve life through the hypothermic process.



Training



All dive team members undergo rigorous training. Allegan County Public Safety Divers are required to obtain a certification in Open Water Diving and are later trained and certified for Public Safety Diving by Dive Rescue International.

In addition, all team members are subject to completing annual watermanship skills as outlined by the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists (IADRS) along with demonstrating proficiency in basic underwater Scuba Skills.

The Sheriff's Dive Team trains monthly, performing various tasks they may encounter in any situation.

Types of Diving

Diving conducted includes:

- Daytime Inland Waters
- Night Diving
- River & Swift Water Diving
- Ice Diving
- Rip Currents
- Great Lakes
- Evidence Search & Recovery
- Zero Visibility Diving
- Contaminated Water Diving

