



# Safety for Commercial Dive Teams

**All commercial dive teams must have at least 3 members present.  
 More people may be required if certain hazards are present.**

You must first assess the diving operation and plan for the safety and health — and possible rescue — of the diver(s):

- Planning for a diving operation must include a safety and health assessment. WAC 296-37-535(4)
- Diving operations must be coordinated with other activities in the area that might interfere with diver safety. WAC 296-37-535(5)
- There must be a way to help an injured diver out of the water or into a bell. WAC 296-37-540(2)(c)

## The dive team

The team must cover four functions (except as indicated below). In some situations, three people can cover four functions if the members are qualified in all areas.

Requirement	Comments
1. <b>A Designated Person in Charge (DPIC)</b>	The DPIC is sometimes called the diving supervisor.
2. An available <b>standby diver</b> (except as noted below)  <b>Exception</b> - Surface-supplied dives in 100 feet or less of water with no planned decompression do not specifically require a standby diver. However, <u>a standby diver is required</u> when underwater conditions include: debris, suction hazards, restricted access to the surface, the possibility of diver entanglement, or unknown bottom conditions. WAC 296-37-535(4)	A DPIC (or diving supervisor) who is a qualified diver can act as the standby diver <u>if</u> the tender is trained and able to perform the functions of the DPIC. If the DPIC has to go into the water as the standby diver, the tender would assume the DPIC functions.  The tender can also be the standby diver if he or she is a qualified diver.
3. <b>A Tender</b> (other than the DPIC) while the diver is in the water	If a tender who is a qualified diver is needed to enter the water and act as the standby diver due to an emergency, the DPIC would then assume the tender's duties.
4. <b>A Diver</b>	The person working in the water.

## Resources

- See Chapter 296-37, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the complete listing of commercial diving regulations.
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