

Supervision during Ascent and Descent Skills

Ascent and descent skills call for special considerations regarding control and supervision. Several skills, such as the Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascent (CESA), require a line. But, even when it isn't required, you should consider using a line whenever possible during ascents or descents in mid-water because it makes it much easier to stop ascents or descents. You can even use one during the Free Descent without Reference skill by having student divers face away from the line. Then, you have the line close by to maintain control, if needed.

Without a certified assistant, supervision can become an issue during ascent and descent skills. If

you're performing ascent skills in shallow water, with visibility good enough to clearly see your student divers floating directly above you (and you always keep divers with buddies), then you can conduct the ascent skills without compromising appropriate supervision.

If the visibility is poor, however, you will need a different method. One option is to have the entire group ascend and descend as you go through ascent skills with each diver. If you have shallow water or a boat close at hand, you can leave everyone ashore or aboard as you go through the skills one diver at a time. When you are done, you can then take everyone together for a fun tour.

PADI Instructors are also held to an overall standard of control found in General Standards and

Procedures under Supervision. Instructors must never leave uncertified student divers unattended at the surface or underwater. Instructors also must apply good judgment in deciding how to best conduct an ascent or descent skill where there is no certified assistant to supervise those student divers not completing the skill.

You can find more information on conducting skills and training during the PADI Open Water Diver course on the PADI Open Water Diver Course Video on DVD, Pro Edition (product no. 70901) and in PADI's *Guide to Teaching* (product nos. 70513 and 70917MUL). You can also contact a training consultant at your PADI Regional Headquarters ([PADI Americas](#) and [PADI Canada](#) | [PADI Latin America](#)) with any specific questions.

