



- [/Español](#)
- [/English](#)

Touch to Search

[Surface Interval](#) PADI Americas

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [RSS](#)
  
- [/Member News](#)
- [/Business of Diving](#)
- [/Instructor Development](#)
- [/Training](#)
- [/Project AWARE](#)
- [/PADI Diving Society](#)

Navigation Menu

30 July 2013 by [PADI Americas](#)

## You Make the Call

*Test your evaluation skill by scoring this PADI Rescue Diver skill – Use of the Pocket Mask.*

### Briefing

Standing in the shallow end of the pool, the instructor and certified assistant welcome the four PADI Rescue Diver students. The instructor begins, “Good morning and welcome to our pool session. You will remember our divemaster, who will be working with us today as we practice pocket mask use.

“You remember this skill from your manual and the video, but this is your chance to practice it in the pool.

“At the end of this session, you will be able demonstrate the proper use of the pocket mask for inwater rescue breathing for a diver at the surface. This particular skill is very useful should you ever need to participate in a diver rescue. You will use this skill tomorrow when you participate in Rescue Exercise Seven during our open water dives.



“Pull out your pocket masks now so you can familiarize yourself with them. Notice the slender end, the fat end, the valve on top where you provide breaths, a soft skirt that forms to the face for a good seal and a strap so you can secure the mask to the diver’s face.”

The instructor demonstrates proper placement, fit and how to secure the strap.

“In a minute, we’ll move, on the surface, to the deep end of the pool. I will demonstrate the skill and include the approach, turning the diver face up, providing positive buoyancy, removing the mask and regulator, checking the diver for breathing, calling for help (emergency services), placing the pocket mask on the diver’s face and providing rescue breaths. We’re on the surface so I’ll just talk to you rather than use signals. After the demonstration, I’ll ask you to work in pairs and practice the skill. You’ll then switch roles so everyone has a chance to practice.”

## **Demonstration**

The instructor and assistant move into water where they cannot stand and establish buoyancy. Making sure everyone can see, the instructor positions the assistant face down breathing from the regulator, and talks through the demonstration.

“As you approach the victim retrieve your pocket mask and have it ready. Call to the diver, splashing some water to attract attention, yelling, ‘Diver, diver, are you okay?’ Since there is no response, you want to call for help and wave your arms. When you reach the diver, tap on or shake the shoulder. If there is no response, roll the diver face up, establish positive buoyancy and remove the diver’s mask and regulator. Establish positive buoyancy for yourself and remove your mask as well. Move above the diver’s head to look, listen and feel for signs of breathing.

“Because this diver is not breathing, you’ll place the pocket mask on the diver’s face, put your thumbs on the side of the mask and your fingers under the bony part of the jaw. Then tilt the head up to open the airway. Provide two initial breaths followed by one rescue breath every five seconds as you tow the victim to safety, which in this case is the shallow end of the pool. We’ll work on removing the scuba equipment at the next session.

“Remember, once you begin the rescue breaths, be sure to maintain an open airway between breaths. Rescue breaths have priority over other rescue procedures such as removing equipment.”

## **The Skill**

The instructor selects a position in front of the divers, gives the okay signal to all of them and waits to receive an okay signal in return before proceeding. The instructor then signals that the assistant should watch the other divers and then calls two divers in to the deep water perform the skill.

The instructor has the rescuer move away from the victim and then positions the victim face down breathing from the regulator. The instructor then has the rescuer begin the skill. The rescuer swims to the victim, splashing water at the victim along the way. The rescuer then quickly turns the victim face up and provides positive buoyancy for both of them. The rescuer removes both masks and the victim’s regulator. The rescuer then places the pocket mask on the victim’s face, secures the strap and moves to the victim’s head. Properly positioning the fingers under the jaw bone, the rescuer tilts the victim’s head up and gives two breaths followed by one breath every five seconds. The rescuer then tows the victim to the shallow end of the pool. The instructor reminds the rescuer to call for help when conducting the rescue and to check for signs of breathing prior to performing rescue breaths. The instructor then asks the diver to perform the skill again. The

diver then successfully completes the skill.

The instructor then has the rescuer and victim switch roles. They move into deep water to set up the skill and, when ready, the instructor has the rescuer begin. The rescuer swims to the victim, calling out, “Diver, diver, are you okay?” The rescuer splashes water in the direction of the victim. After reaching the victim, the rescuer gives the victim a quick shake, asking “Diver, diver, are you okay?” The rescuer turns the victim face up, removes the regulator and places the pocket mask on the victim’s face, securing it with the strap. The rescuer then pauses to look, listen and feel for breathing. Using the thumbs to hold the pocket mask in place and help maintain a good seal, the rescuer places the fingers under the jaw bone, tilts the victim’s head up and delivers two rescue breaths. The rescuer calls for emergency services and continues to give one breath every five seconds while towing the victim to the shallow end of the pool.

At the end of the skill, the instructor reminds the rescuer to check for breathing prior to placing the pocket mask on the victim and to call for help as soon as it becomes apparent that the victim is not responding, because this minimizes the time for emergency services to arrive at the scene. The instructor then has the rescuer repeat the skill. The second time, the rescuer completes the skill without any issues. The instructor gives the rescuer a big high five and congratulations.

The second buddy team completes the skill without problems.

## **Debriefing**

The instructor begins, “Everyone did great. I particularly like how everyone maintained the proper rate of rescue breaths during the rescue. However, I did notice a couple of problems. Someone didn’t call for help when conducting the rescue. As we know, it’s vital to let someone know that you’re conducting a rescue.

“Don’t forget, we’ll be using this skill tomorrow in the open water during our Rescue Exercise Seven: Unresponsive Diver at the Surface. Many thanks to our assistant for the help today! Any questions?”

---

## **Control Scores**

### **Briefing: 5**

The instructor gave a realistic value, described the steps to perform the skill, explained the verbal guidance rather than hand signals related to the skill and told divers how the skill practice would be organized. The instructor also stated the appropriate objective.

### **Demonstration: 5**

The instructor demonstrated the skill in a slow, exaggerated manner while describing each step in the exercise. In this case the instructor combined the description of the skill and demonstration.

### **Problem solving: 4**

The instructor responded correctly to all the problems but did not reinforce proper technique with additional communication.

### **Control and delivery: 3**

The instructor was organized and safe throughout while using time effectively. The instructor used the assistant effectively during the first rescue, but did not give positive reinforcement to the first rescuer and did not communicate with the assistant during the second rescue.

**Debriefing: 4**

The instructor gave specific positive reinforcement. The instructor identified a problem that actually occurred and gave a solution for that problem. The instructor provided a realistic value but did not restate the objective.

**Final score: 4.2**

## Related Posts



10 April 2014 by [PADI Americas](#)

### . The [The Perfect Touch](#)

With the PADI Open Water Diver Touch™, your student divers now have another cutting-edge knowledge development option in addition to the traditional manual with video ...

[Read More](#)



- [Previous](#)
- [Next](#)

## One Comment

1.



Jack [31 July 2013](#) [Reply](#)

Doesn't sound too far off, but as person that works as an First-Aider Professionally, (23+ years), we NEVER use the pocket mask head-strap, as this can be an issue if the person vomits. Holding the mask in place requires more attention to the patient, which I definately think is better.

By the way, I'm also a Swift-Water Rescue Technician, Commercial Diver, Search and Rescue(SAR)Diver, and a member of a Search and Rescue team, none of which recommend, or use, the pocket mask head-strap.

One other thing, it's hard to feel for breathing, in the look, listen, and feel for breathing check, since

you're extremely unlikely to feel an exhalation on your cheek, when your patient is wearing a mask with a one-way valve on it. If by feel, you mean chest expansions, it's much harder to feel those, if your patient is wearing a 3/8" farmer-john, with a 3/8" jacket, or a drysuit, with the under-wear that we have to wear up here in Canada.

I'm not trying to stir the pot here, but there's a big difference in evaluating a diver who's wearing a dive-skin, and one that's wearing a 3/4" wet suit, or a drysuit, with a lot of underwear.

As a PADI PRO, I support the PADI system 100%, however I may have to modify things slightly, to give my patient the best possible care, according to my advanced training, and dive gear used in this area, in order to meet your standards, and ensure the best possible outcome for all.

## Leave a Comment

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

Name \*

Email \*

Comment

## Popular Posts

**DIVE**

### [Sport Diver Magazine Goes Green for PADI Members](#)



### [A Cautionary Tale of Required Materials](#)



## [The DAN Lionfish Safety Briefing](#)



•

## [First Quarter 2014 Training Bulletin Live](#)



•

## [The Revised PADI Open Water Diver Course – Teaching the New Skills](#)

### **PADI Members: North America & Caribbean:**

Join the Conversation




### **PADI Members: Latin America:**

Join the Conversation



### **PADI on Facebook**

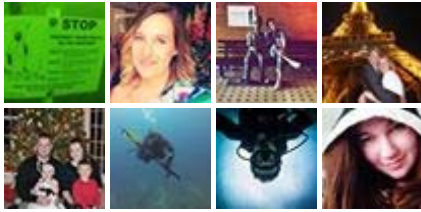
Find us on Facebook



PADI

You like this.

You and 1,004,015 others like PADI.



Facebook social plugin

## Archives

- [April 2014](#)
- [March 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [January 2013](#)
- [November 2012](#)
- [October 2012](#)
- [September 2012](#)
- [August 2012](#)
- [July 2012](#)
- [June 2012](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [March 2011](#)

## Recent PADI Videos

© Copyright 2014PADI

