



MEDIA RELEASE

NWSC FORMS SAFETY COMMITTEE TO ENHANCE RECREATIONAL DIVING SAFETY

Recreational Dive Safety Committee to look into improving state of local diving industry

Singapore, 18 January 2011 – The Recreational Diving Safety Committee (RDSC) has been formed to enhance local recreational diving safety standards, as well as to promote wider public education on recreational diving safety. Set up under the National Water Safety Council (NWSC), the RDSC is part of the larger national effort by the NWSC to actively promote water safety.

2. Explaining the rationale for the formation of the committee, Dr Teo Ho Pin, Chairman of the NWSC and Mayor North West District, said: “Recreational diving is a popular sports activity. While statistics do not suggest a rising trend in recreational diving incidents, such incidents, however, often result in serious consequences. We believe that such unfortunate incidents can be prevented with better understanding and rigorous application of recreational diving safety requirements.”

3. The RDSC is chaired by Rear Admiral (RADM) Tan Wee Beng, currently the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Singapore Navy¹. The RDSC comprises representatives from the Singapore Underwater

¹ An NWSC member since 2007, RADM Tan was Commander of the Naval Diving Unit from 2000 to 2003.

Federation, Singapore Sports Council, Singapore Life Saving Society, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and the Singapore Armed Forces.

4. One of the focus areas for the RDSC is to increase the public's awareness of recreational diving safety. RADM Tan highlighted: "By promoting greater public awareness, recreational divers will be clearer of the safety requirements and standards that must be in place before they embark on any training or actual dives. Being better informed will enable them to demand that diving operators provide the right level of safety measures, and be better positioned to exercise personal responsibility for their safety."

The three focus areas set out by the RDSC are:

- a. Promote public education on recreational diving safety.
- b. Enhance local recreational diving safety standards by partnering industry stakeholders to review and align the industry's best management practices in recreational diving safety.
- c. Research recreational dive safety issues and trends.

5. The RDSC is currently studying a list of recommendations, which will be forwarded to the NWSC for consideration. These include the development of an interactive website to educate the public on recreational diving safety and enable sharing of experiences among recreational divers and service providers, as well as establishing a code of practice for recreational diving service providers to strengthen management practices. The recommendations will also propose an appropriate body to sustain the initiatives aimed at promoting recreational diving safety.

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NWSC

About the National Water Safety Council, Singapore (NWSC)

The NWSC was appointed by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) in 2007 to oversee water safety matters in Singapore. Helmed by Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor North West District and Honorary Advisor to the Singapore Life Saving Society, the NWSC is the national coordinating body in driving and sustaining initiatives overseeing water safety. The Council, appointed on a two-year term, comprises members from the people, private and public sectors.

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