

Florida Officer's Water Safety and Survival

Doug Seely

Abstract

Officers have lost their lives in the performance of their duties. We train to prevent or mitigate these situations as much as possible with firearms training, defensive tactics training, driver training, etc. Florida is known as a very progressive state in its training for Officers. However we do not provide state wide training in water safety and survival. Our state is surrounded by water and is third in square mileage for water to land ratio in the nation. What can be done about this? It should be mandated that there is an evaluation system to test and train our officers in water safety.

Introduction

An often overlooked cause of police fatalities is drowning. It is in the top ten reasons why officers die in the performance of their duties (Table 1). Florida is third in the nation for land to water ratio. Merriam-Webster 11th Collegiate Dictionary defines drowning as to suffocate by submersion especially in water. Drowning could be intentional or, as in most cases, unintentional. Many agencies have overlooked this in their job task analysis for their officers at the street level usually because nothing has happened to anyone in the agency in this area. Even the academies have possibly overlooked this for it is not being taught in most police academies. The media and movies have shown what they think is the correct way for an officer to handle a water type scenario by shedding their gear. Is the correct way?

This writer's interest in this problem comes from attending a water safety class and realizing that this is an overlooked problem in our state. How can we solve this and what can be instituted to make sure that this is never overlooked?

- 1) What kind of water training is available?
- 2) Should water safety training be made mandatory?
- 3) Are there any requirements to ensure police officers can swim?
- 4) What physical agility tests are there for water?
- 5) What kind of equipment is available for water safety and survival?
- 6) How many officer deaths have been contributed to a water encounter?

Table 1

1. Firearms (6,846 or 49%)
2. Automobile Accidents (2,090 or 15%)
3. Motorcycle Accidents (1,022 or 7%)
4. Struck by Vehicle (955 or 7%)

5. Job-related Illness (588 or 4%)
6. Aircraft Accidents (311 or 2%)
7. Stabbings (197 or 1%)
8. Fall (147 or 1%)
9. Drowning (142 or 1%)
10. Beaten (134 or 1%)

Source Craig W. Floyd, *A Record of Law Enforcement's Sacrifice during the Twentieth Century* (January 6, 2000)

<http://nleomf.com/TheMemorial/Facts/CenturySacrifice.htm>

Table 2

CAUSE OF DEATH	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	TOTAL
Aircraft Accidents	2	3	1	7	5	7	4	4	5	2	40
Auto Accidents	42	51	52	44	42	50	51	55	47	37	471
Beaten	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	12
Bicycle Accident	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Boating Accident	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Bomb-Related Incident	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	8
Drowning	4	3	4	3	1	3	0	7	0	1	26
Electrocuted	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Falls	3	1	2	0	2	4	3	1	6	5	27
Horse-Related Accident	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Job-Related Illness	19	16	6	11	7	8	18	14	15	14	128
Motorcycle Accident	5	10	11	7	8	10	7	4	5	4	71
Poisoned	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Shot	59	58	50	60	71	53	46	63	68	61	589
Stabbing	1	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	5	1	15
Strangled	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Struck by Falling Object	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
Struck by train	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	9
Struck by Vehicle	16	13	13	14	24	17	10	15	15	9	146
Terrorist Attack	0	0	0	0	72	0	0	0	0	0	72
Total	155	161	146	156	237	161	143	168	169	139	1635

Source <http://nleomf.com/TheMemorial/Facts/causes.htm>

Methods

The purpose of this research is to determine if this is really a problem in the State of Florida. The data collected will be from surveys from the Florida Police Academies. A portion of this survey will examine what academies do to handle this hidden danger that seems so apparent. I will be testing my own agency officers to find out what the ratio of swimmers to non-swimmer is, as well. Final to obtain the survey that was on policeone.com on water safety training.

Results

Agency Test

Winter Springs Police has 64 sworn police officers in its agency. Of those in the agency 54 of the officers attended the water safety training. 26 officers completed the needed requirements to be classified as a swimmer. 28 officers did not complete the needed requirements to be classified as a swimmer for the class. The two most difficult tasks that gave the officers trouble were treading water and recovering a weighted 10lb bucket from the bottom of the pool and swimming with the handle out of water. It doing this test it was found that 2 officers were very afraid of water. We could only get them waist deep in the water, and they would not submerge their heads even with two instructors present in the shallow end of the pool. It took everything they had to just get in the pool.

Online Questionnaire

Water Safety Survey Conducted By Policeone.com

Material obtained by Dave Young and reproduced with his permission.

- Respondents: 290
- First Response: 5/13/2005 10:02 AM
- Last Response: 7/20/2005 09:34 PM

1. Does your department provide any training for working in or around a water environment prior to being hired?

Yes = 22 or 8%

No = 268 or 92%

2. Does your department provide any training for officers working in or around water environments after being hired?

Yes = 72 or 25%

No = 218 or 75%

3. Do you feel that it is important for an officer to be evaluated in relation to their swimming ability and water defense readiness in an effort to understand and reduce their limitations?

Yes = 246 or 85%

No = 44 or 15%

4. Given your current level of training, do you feel confident that you could safely control a combative subject of your size and weight in the water?

Yes = 136 or 47%

No = 154 or 53%

Is this their perception or true reality?

5. Do you currently have a tactical control plan if you ever enter the water with a combative subject?

Yes = 70 or 24%

No = 220 or 76%

Interviews

Contact was made with all the Police Academies in the State of Florida. Three main questions were ask, the first was do you have a water safety program? The second was do you have access to a pool? The third was do you plan on doing this type of training in the future? The answers were alarming but very much expected. Two academies, Florida Highway Patrol and Miami-Metro Dade on the other hand have taken a stand and do the training. Majority of the academies advised that they only do what is in the CMS curriculum set forth by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. If they deemed it necessary then they would do the training.

<p>Gulf Coast Community College Criminal Justice Training Academy Division of Public Service 5230 West Highway 98 Panama City, FL 32401-1041 Phone: 850-872-3878 Suncom: 780-3878 Agency No: 9911</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Continue it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Unknown</p>
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<p>Okaloosa-Walton Community College Criminal Justice Training Center 100 College Boulevard Niceville, FL 32578 Phone: 850-729-5261 Suncom: 687-1378 Agency No: 9921</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>Washington Holmes Technical Center Criminal Justice Training Center 757 Hoyt Street Chipley, FL 32428-1601 Phone: 850-638-1180 Suncom: 771-4123 Agency No: 9950</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No Corrections Only Academy</p>
<p>Chipola Junior College Criminal Justice Training Center 3094 Indian Circle Marianna, FL 32446-2053 Phone: 850-718-2253 Suncom: 776-2253 Agency No: 9905</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>George Stone Area Vo-Tech Center Criminal Justice Training Center 2400 Longleaf Drive Pensacola, FL 32526-7891 Phone: 850-944-6775 Suncom: Agency No: 9970</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>Florida Department of Corrections Florida Corrections Academy 2601 Blair Stone Road Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500 Phone: 850-488-7245 Suncom: 210-4461 Agency No: 9966</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? N/A</p>

<p>Florida Department of Environmental Protection Public Education and Training Center Division of Law Enforcement 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 620 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 Phone: 850-245-2886 Agency No: 9969</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? N/A</p>
<p>Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 29 Academy Drive Havana, FL 32333 Phone: 850-539-2870 Suncom: Agency No: 9910</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? N/A</p>
<p>Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy 2908 Ridgeway Street Tallahassee, FL 32310 Phone: 850-487-2714 Suncom: 277-2714 Agency No: 9908</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? N/A * 8 Hours (Rescue, Escapes, Drowning)(Shorts/ Shirts Only)</p>
<p>Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Executive Institute Post Office Box 1489 Tallahassee, FL 32302 Phone: 850-410-7373 Suncom: 210-7373 Agency No: 9907</p>	<p>Questions? N/A Water Safety Program? N/A Access to a Pool? N/A Plan to Teach it in the Future? N/A Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? N/A</p>
<p>Lake City Community College Criminal Justice Division Route 19, Box 1030 Lake City, FL 32025 Phone: 386-754-4303 Suncom: 840-4303 Agency No: 9914</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>

<p>North Florida Community College Criminal Justice Academy 1000 Turner Davis Drive Madison, FL 32340 Phone: 850-973-1617 Suncom: 298-9405 Agency No: 9945</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Taylor and Madison)</i></p>
<p>Tallahassee Community College Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy 85 Academy Drive Havana, FL 32333 Phone: 850-201-7000 Agency No: 9916</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>Florida Community College at Jacksonville Northeast Florida Criminal Justice Training and Education Center 4501 Capper Road Jacksonville, FL 32218 Phone: 904-713-4900 Agency No: 9931</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>St. John's River Community College Criminal Justice Training Program 5001 St. John's Avenue Palatka, FL 32177-3897 Phone: 904-808-7490 Agency No: 9942</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>Santa Fe Community College Institute of Public Safety 3737 Northeast 39th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32609 Phone: 352-334-0300 Agency No: 9928</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>

<p>Criminal Justice Academy of Osceola 501 Simpson Road Kissimmee, FL 34744 Phone: (407) 344-5080 Agency No: 9913</p> <p>Lake Technical Center Institute of Public Safety Kenneth A. Bragg Campus 12900 Lane Park Cutoff Road Tavares, FL 32778 Phone: 352-742-6463 Suncom: 639-6463 Agency No: 9915</p> <p>Polk Community College Criminal Justice Division 999 Avenue H, Northeast Winter Haven, FL 33881-4299 Phone: 863-297-1038 Suncom: 580-1038 Agency No: 9943</p> <p>Seminole Community College Criminal Justice Institute 100 Weldon Boulevard Sanford, FL 32773-6199 Phone: 407-708-2299 Suncom: 353-1011 Agency No: 9930</p> <p>Central Florida Community College Criminal Justice Institute 3001 Southwest College Road P. O. Box 1388 Ocala, FL 34475 Phone: 352-873-5838 Suncom: 655-1360 Agency No: 9904</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Osceola)(Swim test only)</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Winter Springs)</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
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<p>Criminal Justice Institute at Valencia Community College 8600 Valencia College Lane Orlando, FL 32825 Phone: 407-582-8200 Suncom: Agency No: 9968</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes (<i>Orange – swim test</i>)</p>
<p>Pasco-Hernando Community College Gowers Corner Center c/o East Campus 36727 Blanton Road Dade City, FL 33523-7599 Phone:352-518-1360 Agency No: 9965</p>	<p>Questions? (No Answer) Water Safety Program? ?? Access to a Pool? ?? Plan to Teach it in the Future? ?? Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? ??</p>
<p>St. Petersburg Junior College Southeastern Public Safety Institute Post Office Box 13489 St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489 Phone: 727-341-4495 Suncom: 534-4495 Agency No: 9938</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
<p>Withlacoochee Technical Institute Criminal Justice Training Academy 1201 West Main Street Inverness, FL 34450 Phone: 352-726-2430 Ext. 271 Fax: (352)726-5842 Agency No: 9937</p>	<p>Questions? (No Answer) Water Safety Program? ?? Access to a Pool? ?? Plan to Teach it in the Future? ?? Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? ??</p>
<p>Hillsborough Community College Ybor City Campus Criminal Justice Institute P. O. Box 5096 Tampa, FL 33675-5096 Phone: 813-253-7957 Agency No: 9941</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Unknown</p>

<p>Brevard Community College Criminal Justice Division 3865 North Wickham Road Melbourne, FL 32935-2310 Phone: 321-632-1111 Suncom: 361-6203 Agency No: 9902</p> <p>Daytona Beach Community College Criminal Justice Training School 1200 West International Speedway Blvd. Daytona Beach, FL 32114 Phone: 386-255-8131, ext. 3171 Suncom: 372-3708 Agency No: 9906</p> <p>Indian River Community College Criminal Justice Institute 3209 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34981-5599 Phone: 772-464-7676 Suncom: 246-4760 Agency No: 9912</p> <p>Manatee Technical Institute Criminal Justice Institute 5603 34th Street West Bradenton, FL 34210-5297 Phone: 941-751-7900 Suncom: 599-7998. Agency No: 9917</p> <p>Manatee Sheriff's Office Training Center #72 14490-B Harlee Road Palmetto, FL 34221 Phone: 941-747-3011 Agency No: FLTRN0072</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Regional Assessment Center Tests all Applicants)</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Use to Teach Water Safety but lost it in the Transition to CMS)</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p> <p>Questions? (No Answer) Water Safety Program? ?? Access to a Pool? ?? Plan to Teach it in the Future? ?? Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? ??</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p>
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<p>Sarasota County Technical Institute Criminal Justice Academy 4748 Beneva Road Sarasota, FL 34233 Phone: 941-924-1365 Suncom: 562-1365 Agency No: 9929</p> <p>South Florida Community College Criminal Justice Academy 600 West College Drive Avon Park, FL 33825 Phone: 863-784-7280 Suncom: 750-1280 Agency No: 9932</p> <p>Lee County Vocational / High Tech Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy 3800 Michigan Avenue Fort Myers, FL 33916 Phone: 239-334-3897 Suncom: 334-3897 Agency No: 9933</p> <p>Broward Community College Institute of Public Safety 3501 Southwest Davie Road Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314 Phone: 954-201-6788 Suncom: 469-6788 Agency No: 9903</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Sarasota does an in-service every two years because of the loss of one of their officers)</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Use to Teach Water Safety but lost it in the Transition to CMS (8hours Worth))</i></p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(Regional Assessment Center Tests all Applicants)</i></p>
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<p>Broward County Sheriff's Office Institute for Criminal Justice Studies 2601 West Broward Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312 Phone: (954) 831-8178 Fax: (954) 831-8183 Agency Region No: 13</p> <p>Palm Beach Community College Criminal Justice Training Center 4200 Congress Avenue Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796 Phone: 561-868-3398 Suncom: NA Agency No: 9944</p> <p>Miami Police Training Center Miami Police Department 400 Northwest 2nd Avenue Miami, FL 33128 Phone: 305-579-6624 Agency No: 9920</p> <p>Metropolitan Police Institute Miami-Dade Police Department 9601 Northwest 58th Street Miami, FL 33178 Phone: 305-715-5101 Suncom: 638-5791 Agency No: 9918</p> <p>Miami-Dade Community College School of Justice 11380 Northwest 27th Avenue, North Campus Miami, FL 33167-3418 Phone: 305-237-1328 Suncom: Agency No: 9919</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? No</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? No Plan to Teach it in the Future? Unk Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Unknown</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Unknown</p> <p>Questions? Water Safety Program? Yes Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? Yes Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Yes <i>(3 Day Swimming Class – Includes teaching how to swim)</i></p> <p>Questions? (No Answer) Water Safety Program? ?? Access to a Pool? ?? Plan to Teach it in the Future? ?? Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? ??</p>
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<p>Florida Keys Community College Institute of Criminal Justice 5901 College Road Key West, FL 33040-4397 Phone: 305-296-9081 Suncom: 485-1200 Agency No: 9909</p>	<p>Questions? Water Safety Program? No Access to a Pool? Yes Plan to Teach it in the Future? No Agencies in the Area teach or Perform Water Tests? Unknown</p>
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Literature / Data Review

Researching newspapers, magazines, and the internet, you can find incidents of officers involved in water borne incidents. The more sensationalized it was the easier it was to find. If it was not part of any chase, escape, crash, etc. then it was very hard to find the information. However the fact still remains that an officer still died in the line of duty.

- Deputy Constable Denny "Bo" Galloway (SEE CORRECTION), 34, ran into the river to save Bernardo Vasquez, a 21-year-old Marine on leave from Iraq. Vasquez had already disappeared after jumping into the river to help his uncle, Mario Linares, 40, who was struggling with the currents. Galloway and Vasquez both died attempting to save lives.
- Officer Robert Ponce was searching the shoreline of the lake when he spotted the victim submerged in water up to his head, and clinging to a small branch.
- A woman whose car ran into a pond while fleeing police slipped under the water and disappeared as officers who could not swim waited on shore for rescuers to arrive, Police Chief Danny Emerson said.
- But the body of his partner, Officer Robert Nguyen, was not recovered until four days later, 90 feet downstream. Some people wondered if Officer Nguyen, who was known to be a good athlete and a strong swimmer, might have survived the crash and tried to swim away but was weighed down by his gun and gear and then succumbed to the 40-degree water.
- Babyak and Officer Sheldon Askew were honored for risking their lives to save a person who drowned while fleeing arrest. The officers rushed to help a

Department of Public Safety trooper who was pursuing a suspect on foot. When the suspect jumped into a retention pond and tried to swim away, he began drowning. Babyak and Askew shed their belts, uniform shirts and body armor and entered the pond. After swimming around the pond, they were unable to locate the person, who drowned. The duo didn't hesitate to enter the dark, deep, murky waters.

- On Jan. 18, 1995, Officer Norris Epps drowned while acting as an observer aboard a Tampa police helicopter conducting a search over water.

Case Study

- 1) What kind of water Training is Available?

Water Safety Survival Instructor Level I
Water Safety Survival Instructor Level II

- 2) Should water Safety Training made mandatory?

It is the opinion of this writer that it be made mandatory, not to use as a disqualification but to definitely educate the officers of their ability.

Failure to properly train personnel as set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in *City of Canton vs. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 109 S. Ct. 1197 (1989).

- 3) Are there any requirements for police officers to swim in water?

No – Not part of the officer's certification. The only requirement would be on the part of the agency. With diminishing budgets we know that this is evermore difficult.

Two counties have a hiring assessment center. The only test they have is to swim laps. A few other agencies have it in their hiring practices but the overwhelming majority do not have anything.

- 4) What physical agility tests are there for water?

There can be a list of items that can be and should be mandatory.

Swimming in full gear, holding your breath at least a minute and a half, buddy rescue, and treading water all could be the start of a standardized training program.

5) What kind of equipment is available for water safety and survival?

Knowledge and training first and foremost, second a very inexpensive item know as a Rescue disk was found and can be installed in all the police vehicles. A heat sealed ballistic vest will provide some bouncy until help arrives. Boots or shoes that are waterproof and float will assist in the officer. Last but not least a duty belt that is made out of nylon so it does not saturate like a leather duty belt.

6) How many officer deaths have been contributed to a water encounter?

In Florida, 5 that are known of and listed on the Officer Down Memorial Page. Nationwide 201 were found if the agency made it known.



[Captain John M. Cash](#)

Palm Beach Police Department, FL
EOW: Sunday, October 31, 1926
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Amos Cox](#)

Brevard County Sheriff's Office, FL
EOW: Wednesday, August 4, 1965
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain James W. Parr](#)

Florida Department of Corrections, FL
EOW: Thursday, August 11, 1966
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Wildlife Officer James L. Cook](#)

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, FL
EOW: Friday, December 8, 1972
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Wildlife Officer Donald Dante Thornbury](#)

Miccosukee Tribal Police Department, TR (Florida)
EOW: Monday, October 28, 1991
Cause of Death: Drowned

201 that are listed nation wide See Table
Officers that have drowned (201 Total to Date)



[Sheriff George Lee Phillips](#)

Ashe County Sheriff's Office, NC
EOW: Saturday, September 23, 1843
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Rodney Badger](#)
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, UT
EOW: Friday, April 29, 1853
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff William H. Tainter](#)
Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Friday, October 23, 1863
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Inspector William B. Goodell](#)
United States Department of the Treasury - Customs Service,
US (Washington)
EOW: Wednesday, December 16, 1863
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Collector James M. Anderson](#)
United States Department of the Treasury - Customs Service,
US (Washington)
EOW: Wednesday, December 16, 1863
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Henry Corbett](#)
New York Metropolitan Police Force, NY
EOW: Monday, July 13, 1868
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff George V. Vise](#)
Dallas County Sheriff's Department, TX
EOW: Wednesday, June 5, 1878
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Charles W. Fisher](#)
Baltimore City Police Department, MD
EOW: Sunday, January 6, 1884
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff Jerry Ryan](#)
Gila County Sheriff's Office, AZ
EOW: Sunday, June 1, 1890
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Adolphus C. Constantine](#)
Metropolitan Police Department, DC
EOW: Thursday, September 10, 1891
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Guard William H. \(Will\) Camp](#)

McLennan County Convict Farm, TX
EOW: Wednesday, June 8, 1892
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain Joshua Bromwell](#)

Maryland Board of Public Works - State Fishery Force, MD
EOW: Sunday, September 17, 1893
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Marshal Eli Hickman \(Heck\) Bruner](#)

United States Department of Justice - Marshals Service,
US (Oklahoma)
EOW: Wednesday, June 22, 1898
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Constable Henry Phelps](#)

Lenox Constable's Office, NY
EOW: Friday, October 31, 1902
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Joseph P. Keenan](#)

Kansas City Police Department, MO
EOW: Tuesday, June 2, 1903
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman William J. Hedeman](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Sunday, July 29, 1906
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman W. Edwin Miller](#)

Memphis Police Department, TN
EOW: Sunday, February 10, 1907
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Chief of Police William J. Biggy](#)

San Francisco Police Department, CA
EOW: Monday, November 30, 1908
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman William Mateer](#)

Metropolitan Police Department, MA
EOW: Sunday, January 10, 1909
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff John McLinnis](#)

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, WA
EOW: Sunday, November 5, 1911
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Edwin T. Finn](#)

Hancock County Sheriff's Department, ME
EOW: Wednesday, November 22, 1911
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff John E. Webster](#)

Hancock County Sheriff's Department, ME
EOW: Wednesday, November 22, 1911
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer William Sexton](#)

Columbus Division of Police, OH
EOW: Tuesday, March 25, 1913
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain Allen D. McGown](#)

Findlay Police Department, OH
EOW: Wednesday, March 26, 1913
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrol Officer Thomas Thomas](#)

New Castle Police Department, PA
EOW: Thursday, March 27, 1913
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Francis A. Burke](#)

New Orleans Police Department, LA
EOW: Friday, July 16, 1915
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Harry Raymond](#)

Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, TX
EOW: Sunday, September 14, 1919
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain Joe Williams](#)

Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, TX
EOW: Sunday, September 14, 1919
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Daniel J. Grennan](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Thursday, December 9, 1920

Cause of Death: Drowned

[Game Warden Arthur G. Deag](#)



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Warden Service, ME

EOW: Tuesday, July 19, 1921

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Charles D. Potter](#)

New York City Police Department, NY

EOW: Friday, July 22, 1921

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Martin Maloney](#)

New York City Police Department, NY

EOW: Sunday, September 18, 1921

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Special Officer Webster C. Gentry](#)

Fort Worth Police Department, TX

EOW: Tuesday, April 25, 1922

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer Joseph E. Kreager](#)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Enforcement Division, MN

EOW: Friday, May 26, 1922

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden William J. Nattkemper](#)

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, IN

EOW: Tuesday, April 27, 1926

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden William J. Peare](#)

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, IN

EOW: Tuesday, April 27, 1926

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain John M. Cash](#)

Palm Beach Police Department, FL

EOW: Sunday, October 31, 1926

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff George Leon Wiley](#)

Cocke County Sheriff's Department, TN

EOW: Tuesday, May 17, 1927

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Andrew Grennan](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Tuesday, June 28, 1927
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Detective Albert Wiebelt](#)

New Orleans Police Department, LA
EOW: Tuesday, January 3, 1928
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Detective Richard Connors](#)

New Orleans Police Department, LA
EOW: Tuesday, January 3, 1928
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Park Ranger Fred Johnson](#)

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
US (Arizona)
EOW: Wednesday, February 20, 1929
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Park Ranger Glen Sturdevant](#)

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
US (Arizona)
EOW: Wednesday, February 20, 1929
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Harold Conway](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Saturday, January 31, 1931
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Customs Agent Louis E. Babcock](#)

United States Department of the Treasury - Customs Service,
US (Vermont)
EOW: Monday, August 17, 1931
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Policeman Luis A. Albarran-Feliciano](#)

Puerto Rico Police Department, PR
EOW: Saturday, May 7, 1932
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Protector Paul J. De Cuennois](#)

New York State Environmental Conservation Police, NY
EOW: Sunday, October 16, 1932
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Jean Baptiste Jalbert](#)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Warden Service, ME

EOW: Saturday, May 13, 1933

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Homer J. Harrison](#)

New York State Police, NY

EOW: Monday, June 19, 1933

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer John Linklater](#)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Enforcement Division, MN

EOW: Saturday, July 8, 1933

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Chief of Police William Irvin Garland](#)

Burkburnett Police Department, TX

EOW: Saturday, May 18, 1935

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman John H. Sellman](#)

McKeesport Police Department, PA

EOW: Wednesday, March 18, 1936

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Carl A. Schlotz](#)

Morristown Police Department, NJ

EOW: Thursday, May 21, 1936

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Inspector Frank Liedloff](#)

Washington Department of Fisheries, WA

EOW: Monday, September 21, 1936

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Charles M. Snyder](#)

Pittsburgh Police Department, PA

EOW: Monday, January 25, 1937

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Henry Gilbert Healy](#)

Saline County Sheriff's Department, IL

EOW: Monday, February 8, 1937

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff James Ezra Tolbert](#)
 Saline County Sheriff's Department, IL
 EOW: Monday, February 8, 1937
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Guard John Cleophus \(Johnnie\) Ford](#)
 Texas Department of Criminal Justice, TX
 EOW: Monday, October 4, 1937
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Harry Merrill](#)
 Bonneville County Sheriff's Department, ID
 EOW: Thursday, June 16, 1938
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Customs Agent Matthew Kononen](#)
 United States Department of the Treasury - Customs Service,
 US (California)
 EOW: Sunday, March 5, 1939
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Immigrant Inspector Roy M. Porter](#)
 United States Department of Justice - Immigration and
 Naturalizat..., US (Washington)
 EOW: Thursday, December 28, 1939
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer Maurice M. Baggs](#)
 Iowa Department of Natural Resources, IA
 EOW: Saturday, July 4, 1942
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Trooper Ralph Broullire](#)
 Michigan State Police, MI
 EOW: Tuesday, March 16, 1943
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant John W. O'Neil](#)
 Minneapolis Police Department, MN
 EOW: Wednesday, June 7, 1944
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Customs Agent George E. Spencer](#)
 United States Department of the Treasury - Customs Service,
 US (Texas)
 EOW: Saturday, February 24, 1945
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer Thomas J. Mellon](#)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MI
EOW: Thursday, October 23, 1947
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman P. W. Smith](#)

North Carolina Highway Patrol, NC
EOW: Thursday, May 27, 1948
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Corporal Arthur M. Hurst](#)

West Virginia State Police, WV
EOW: Friday, June 17, 1949
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Louis Balzano](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Monday, April 10, 1950
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Inspector Otis John Whan](#)

Illinois Department of Conservation - Division of Law Enforcement, IL
EOW: Tuesday, January 16, 1951
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Warden David W. Brocker](#)

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, NJ
EOW: Friday, November 16, 1951
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Harold Gartside](#)

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, MT
EOW: Sunday, April 24, 1955
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrol Officer Charles Yodkins Sr.](#)

Farmington Police Department, CT
EOW: Friday, August 19, 1955
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrol Officer Billie D. Ellis](#)

Princeton Township Police Department, NJ
EOW: Friday, August 19, 1955
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Undersheriff Charles Earl Blackburn](#)

Sutter County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Saturday, December 24, 1955

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff John Leroy Talley](#)

Sutter County Sheriff's Department, CA

EOW: Saturday, December 24, 1955

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Robert Joseph McIntyre](#)

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SC

EOW: Monday, September 17, 1956

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Inspector William Schriver](#)

Maryland Natural Resources Police, MD

EOW: Monday, October 1, 1956

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Eugene A. Bolstad](#)

Washington State Patrol, WA

EOW: Tuesday, September 3, 1957

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Fish Warden Raymond Leroy Schroll Jr.](#)

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, PA

EOW: Friday, April 4, 1958

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Park Ranger John C. Fonda](#)

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
US (Wyoming)

EOW: Wednesday, March 9, 1960

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Kieffer C. Burris](#)

Kansas City Police Department, MO

EOW: Friday, July 15, 1960

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Herbert E. Bybee](#)

Kansas City Police Department, MO

EOW: Friday, July 15, 1960

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Protector Benning De La Mater](#)

New York State Environmental Conservation Police, NY

EOW: Saturday, June 24, 1961

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Robert G. Beghtol](#)
Arvada Police Department, CO
EOW: Friday, July 28, 1961
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Robert E. Forrester](#)
Wasco County Sheriff's Department, OR
EOW: Wednesday, August 30, 1961
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Chief of Police Angelo J. Leonetti](#)
Long Beach Township Police Department, NJ
EOW: Tuesday, March 6, 1962
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff Ralph J. Hansen](#)
Ransom County Sheriff's Department, ND
EOW: Saturday, May 5, 1962
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Willie A. Shingler](#)
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, MS
EOW: Tuesday, November 13, 1962
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Kenneth Couch](#)
New Milford Police Department, CT
EOW: Wednesday, April 10, 1963
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer George B. Driscoll](#)
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, SD
EOW: Sunday, April 26, 1964
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Amos Cox](#)
Brevard County Sheriff's Office, FL
EOW: Wednesday, August 4, 1965
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Stanley Butch](#)
New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Friday, February 11, 1966
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Charles Scott](#)
Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, NY
EOW: Thursday, March 31, 1966

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Inspector George T. Mullikin](#)

Maryland Natural Resources Police, MD

EOW: Friday, April 1, 1966

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Willie Stephenson](#)

New York City Housing Authority Police Department, NY

EOW: Sunday, July 3, 1966

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain James W. Parr](#)

Florida Department of Corrections, FL

EOW: Thursday, August 11, 1966

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Trooper Donald Timothy Welp](#)

Oregon State Police, OR

EOW: Wednesday, November 15, 1967

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Lloyd Dean Gustin](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TX

EOW: Monday, March 25, 1968

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman David A. McKee Sr.](#)

Fort Atkinson Police Department, WI

EOW: Tuesday, April 9, 1968

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain Donny E. Ashley](#)

Pontiac Police Department, MI

EOW: Wednesday, July 3, 1968

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Norman G. Vezina](#)

Smithfield Police Department, RI

EOW: Tuesday, December 10, 1968

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Detective Robert R. Monette](#)

Virginia Beach Police Department, VA

EOW: Thursday, December 19, 1968

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Roger L. McClung](#)
Virginia Beach Police Department, VA
EOW: Thursday, December 19, 1968
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Chester Larson](#)
Ventura County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Monday, January 20, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Deputy Sheriff Charles D. Rea](#)
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Sunday, January 26, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer James Edward Collard](#)
Monterey Police Department, CA
EOW: Sunday, April 20, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Paul H. Knisley](#)
Wooster Police Department, OH
EOW: Saturday, July 5, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Robert C. Goodrich](#)
Wooster Police Department, OH
EOW: Saturday, July 5, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Ronald E. Leist](#)
Algoma Police Department, WI
EOW: Thursday, October 9, 1969
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Gilbert A. Duthie](#)
Arizona Department of Public Safety, AZ
EOW: Saturday, September 5, 1970
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Paul S. Smith](#)
California Department of Fish and Game, CA
EOW: Saturday, December 19, 1970
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Lieutenant Martin Webb](#)
Baltimore City Police Department, MD
EOW: Tuesday, August 3, 1971

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Ranger Melvin Lewis Garrison Jr.](#)

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, OK

EOW: Monday, December 27, 1971

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Trooper James Willard McNeely](#)

Kentucky State Police, KY

EOW: Saturday, April 8, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Officer Daniel E. Wickard](#)

Rapid City Police Department, SD

EOW: Friday, June 9, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Gordon F. Hufnagle](#)

Lewisburg Police Department, PA

EOW: Wednesday, June 21, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Leo Paul Van Winkle](#)

Philadelphia Police Department, PA

EOW: Tuesday, June 27, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Dana Edward Harwood](#)

Metropolitan Police Department, DC

EOW: Monday, September 25, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Pilot Richard E. Varney](#)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Warden Service, ME

EOW: Wednesday, September 27, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Wildlife Officer James L. Cook](#)

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, FL

EOW: Friday, December 8, 1972

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Gary W. Fraid](#)

Kenosha Police Department, WI

EOW: Thursday, June 7, 1973

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer Denver Earlington Tabor](#)

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, KY
EOW: Friday, July 20, 1973
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Terry Lee Greer](#)

Kern County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Tuesday, August 7, 1973
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Elias Sanchez Enriquez](#)

California State Police, CA
EOW: Wednesday, January 23, 1974
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Morris Edward Brossette](#)

Natchitoches Police Department, LA
EOW: Friday, April 26, 1974
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Lakes Officer William L. Stewart Jr.](#)

Oklahoma City Lake Patrol, OK
EOW: Friday, May 17, 1974
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Thomas Eide](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Saturday, June 15, 1974
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Deputy Sheriff Charles J. Banning](#)

Kern County Sheriff's Department, CA
EOW: Wednesday, October 23, 1974
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Policeman Rafael Iglesias-Nieva](#)

Puerto Rico Police Department, PR
EOW: Sunday, January 5, 1975
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Policeman Jose M. Valentin-Hernandez](#)

Puerto Rico Police Department, PR
EOW: Sunday, May 4, 1975
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Lieutenant Harold Roy Berg](#)

Oregon State Police, OR
EOW: Saturday, May 10, 1975

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Kip E. Boulis](#)

Perrysburg City Police Department, OH

EOW: Sunday, May 30, 1976

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Trooper Hugh Purdy](#)

Colorado State Patrol, CO

EOW: Saturday, July 31, 1976

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Michael Owen Conley](#)

Estes Park Police Department, CO

EOW: Saturday, July 31, 1976

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Danny Kerr Vaughn](#)

Klickitat County Sheriff's Department, WA

EOW: Friday, November 19, 1976

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer I Francisco Aguon Reyes](#)

Guam Police Department, GU

EOW: Thursday, June 9, 1977

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Deputy James L. Epp](#)

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, AZ

EOW: Wednesday, March 1, 1978

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Robert A. Hutchinson](#)

Monroe Police Department, MI

EOW: Wednesday, June 28, 1978

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer III Tomas Mendiola Sablan](#)

Guam Police Department, GU

EOW: Sunday, December 10, 1978

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Alvin Williams](#)

Woodbridge Police Department, NJ

EOW: Thursday, September 6, 1979

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Wilfred Doyle](#)
 Philadelphia Police Department, PA
 EOW: Friday, December 21, 1979
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Ranger Duane P. McClure](#)
 United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
 US (Wyoming)
 EOW: Thursday, May 22, 1980
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Deputy James Edward Healy](#)
 Napa County Sheriff's Department, CA
 EOW: Sunday, May 25, 1980
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer William Becker](#)
 New York State Environmental Conservation Police, NY
 EOW: Wednesday, March 11, 1981
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Rodney C. Bonney](#)
 Auburn Police Department, ME
 EOW: Monday, April 6, 1981
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Larry A. Holder](#)
 Algonquin Police Department, IL
 EOW: Thursday, July 22, 1982
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Charles David Hartman](#)
 Lee's Summit Police Department, MO
 EOW: Sunday, May 1, 1983
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Ricky A. LaFollette](#)
 Louisville Police Department, KY
 EOW: Thursday, August 18, 1983
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Lieutenant Robert T. Hicks](#)
 Middlesex County Sheriff's Office, VA
 EOW: Sunday, May 20, 1984
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Ronald J. Siver](#)
 Rochester Police Department, NY

EOW: Sunday, August 19, 1984
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Winfield Scott Edie](#)
Chelan County Sheriff's Department, WA
EOW: Saturday, November 24, 1984
Cause of Death: Drowned

[Chief of Police James R. Wulf](#)
Sabinal Police Department, TX
EOW: Monday, December 31, 1984
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Chief Deputy Sheriff Wayne Lewis Wahl](#)
Crockett County Sheriff's Office, TX
EOW: Sunday, April 28, 1985
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff James E. Simono](#)
Elmore County Sheriff's Office, ID
EOW: Sunday, June 9, 1985
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Robert Arthur VanAlyne Jr.](#)
Laramie County Sheriff's Department, WY
EOW: Thursday, August 1, 1985
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Policeman Pedro Burgos-Lacourt](#)
Puerto Rico Police Department, PR
EOW: Sunday, October 6, 1985
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Kevin Joseph Welsh](#)
Metropolitan Police Department, DC
EOW: Monday, August 4, 1986
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Douglas M. Jones](#)
Lexington County Sheriff's Department, SC
EOW: Thursday, August 21, 1986
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Richard L. Fortin](#)
Detroit Police Department, MI
EOW: Friday, June 19, 1987
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Andrea Keith Williams](#)

Mississippi River Bridge Authority Police Department, LA
EOW: Tuesday, February 16, 1988
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Patricia R. Calderon](#)

San Antonio Police Department, TX
EOW: Tuesday, December 27, 1988
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Timothy L. Wells](#)

Williams County Sheriff's Department, ND (Montana)
EOW: Saturday, February 11, 1989
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden William Barry Decker](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TX
EOW: Saturday, May 26, 1990
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Game Warden Franklin Bruce Hill](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TX
EOW: Saturday, May 26, 1990
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Kenneth Michael Hansen](#)

New York City Police Department, NY
EOW: Tuesday, June 11, 1991
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Agent Kenneth Dale Aycok](#)

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LA
EOW: Saturday, July 6, 1991
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Wildlife Officer Donald Dante Thornbury](#)

Miccosukee Tribal Police Department, TR (Florida)
EOW: Monday, October 28, 1991
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Gary Allen Gaboury](#)

Vermont State Police, VT
EOW: Tuesday, May 12, 1992
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Anthony \(Rico\) Freitas](#)

Presque Isle State Park Police, PA
EOW: Tuesday, November 17, 1992

Cause of Death: Drowned

[Sergeant Kevin Tilman Lewis](#)



United States Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs,
US (Arizona)

EOW: Thursday, February 4, 1993

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Auxiliary Police Officer Ty Edward Massey](#)

Colona Police Department, IL

EOW: Tuesday, May 11, 1993

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant James Ralph Fassnacht](#)

Essex County Police Department, NJ

EOW: Tuesday, July 6, 1993

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Park Ranger Ryan Francis Weltman](#)

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
US (Wyoming)

EOW: Sunday, July 3, 1994

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Paul Matthews Pytel](#)

San Antonio Department of Parks and Recreation Police, TX

EOW: Sunday, July 31, 1994

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Martin Joseph Hudson](#)

United States Department of Defense - Philadelphia Naval Base Police,
US (Pennsylvania)

EOW: Friday, October 28, 1994

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Patrolman Daniel David Trail](#)

Beloit Police Department, KS

EOW: Sunday, June 25, 1995

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Park Ranger James Randall Morgenson](#)

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service,
US (California)

EOW: Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Michael Anthony Partin](#)

Covington Police Department, KY

EOW: Sunday, January 4, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sheriff Ralph Francis Baker](#)

Madison County Sheriff's Department, AR
EOW: Monday, January 5, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Harbor Patrol Officer Paul D. Korber](#)

Ventura Port District Harbor Patrol, CA
EOW: Sunday, March 15, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[First Sergeant Karl Eugene Kelley](#)

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, IN
EOW: Friday, April 17, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Lieutenant James LaDow Davis](#)

Ocean Shores Police Department, WA
EOW: Sunday, April 26, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Edward Ronald Callahan](#)

Douglas County Sheriff's Department, NV
EOW: Sunday, May 24, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer I Sa Fuimaono](#)

American Samoa Department of Public Safety, AS
EOW: Wednesday, June 3, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Deputy Sheriff Sean Milton Theriot](#)

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Department, LA
EOW: Sunday, October 25, 1998
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Captain John M. Garlington](#)

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LA
EOW: Thursday, February 10, 2000
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Alane M. Stoffregen](#)

Chicago Police Department, IL
EOW: Friday, June 2, 2000
Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Thomas M. Bray](#)
 Philadelphia Police Department, PA
 EOW: Tuesday, November 13, 2001
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Scott Arner](#)
 Jasper County Sheriff's Department, MO
 EOW: Friday, January 4, 2002
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Robert James Taylor Sr.](#)
 Rocky Boy's Tribal Police Department, TR (Montana)
 EOW: Monday, May 27, 2002
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Kevin William Schultz](#)
 Pojoaque Pueblo Tribal Police Department, TR (New Mexico)
 EOW: Saturday, August 17, 2002
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Officer Andre Gerard Booker](#)
 Henrico County Police Department, VA
 EOW: Sunday, January 12, 2003
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Conservation Officer James Lansford \(Lance\) Horner Jr.](#)
 Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources -
 Wildli..., AL
 EOW: Sunday, June 22, 2003
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Border Patrol Agent James Paul Epling](#)
 United States Department of Homeland Security - Border Patrol,
 US (California)
 EOW: Tuesday, December 16, 2003
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Reserve Officer Russell Hayden Simpson](#)
 Bandon Police Department, OR
 EOW: Monday, December 22, 2003
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Donald Ralph Schultz](#)
 Phoenix Police Department, AZ
 EOW: Wednesday, May 12, 2004
 Cause of Death: Drowned



[Senior Patrol Agent Jeremy Michael Wilson](#)

United States Department of Homeland Security - Border Patrol,
US (Texas)

EOW: Sunday, September 19, 2004

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Senior Patrol Agent Travis Wayne Attaway](#)

United States Department of Homeland Security - Border Patrol,
US (Texas)

EOW: Sunday, September 19, 2004

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Police Officer Jackson Vernon \(Jack\) Lone](#)

Seattle Police Department, WA

EOW: Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Cause of Death: Drowned



[Sergeant Denny F. Gallaway Jr.](#)

San Jacinto County Constable's Office - Precinct 2, TX

EOW: Thursday, September 15, 2005

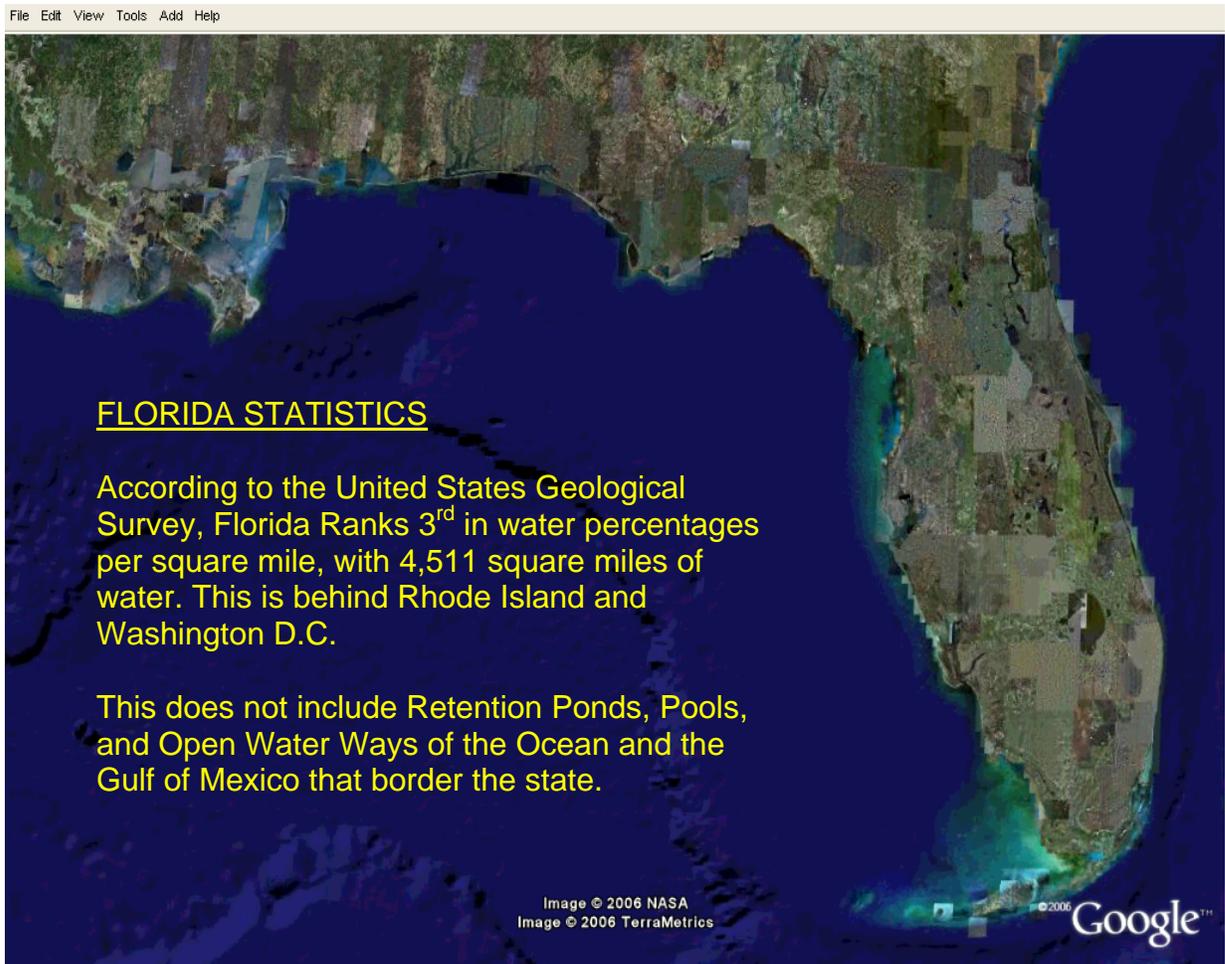
Cause of Death: Drowned

Discussion

The research concludes that in the State of Florida we do not have enough water safety training. You would think with as much water that we are surrounded with and 17.9% of the state is water we would have the training. This type of training could be a one day of basic introduction and incorporated in the Defensive Tactics programs. The reason for this thought process is because of the physical nature of the training and the use of force considerations that will follow. With the way our litigious society is going and the Supreme Courts Decision on failure to train, people have an expectation of our officers to know how to handle a water incident.

Conclusion

Please take a moment and think of this.



The potential legal liability of a department s increased if officers are not properly trained. This is based on the standards for failure to properly train personnel as set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in *City of Canton vs. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 109 S. Ct. 1197 (1989).

Lieutenant Doug Seely has worked with the Winter Springs Police Department since 1991. Along with his responsibilities as a supervisor he is involved in high liability Instruction for his agency such as Defensive Tactics, Firearms, PPE, WMD, and Suicide Bombers. Doug is also an instructor for the Seminole Community College Criminal Justice Academy. Doug is pursuing his Associates Degree.

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