

January 13, 1981

NOAA DIVING SAFETY BULLETIN #81-1

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL NOAA DIVERS

FROM: J. Morgan Wells
NOAA Diving Coordinator

SUBJECT: 1. New Address for Diving Office
2. New Regulations on Chest X-Ray
3. New Regulations on EKG

1. New Address and Phone Number for NOAA Diving Office:

NOAA Diving Office - OA/C74	FTS/301-443-8007
National Ocean Survey	FTS/301-443-4132
Rockville, Maryland 20852	

2. Chest X-rays - NOAA Medical Evaluation Criteria (NOAA Form 64-5, Part I)

Review of the medical criteria for chest x-rays by the NOAA Diving Medical Review Board has resulted in the following consensus of opinion.

"Chest X-rays: Since pressure related effects are mediated through the respiratory system, and lethal consequences may ensue, a 14 x 17 chest x-ray, PA and lateral, shall be taken as a baseline on the initial physical examination. The chest x-ray should be repeated every two years until the diver has reached the age of 40, then annually with each physical examination. This x-ray shall be reported as normal and the results included with the physical examination."

This change in evaluation policy should be brought to the attention of the examining physician with respect to the criteria for examinations. (NOAA Form 64-5, Part 1, X-ray).

3. EKG - NOAA Medical Evaluation Criteria (NOAA Form 64-5, Part 1)

EKG: A baseline normal resting 12 lead electrocardiogram shall be performed on the initial examination. The electrocardiogram shall be repeated annually after the age of 35.

This change in evaluation policy should be brought to the attention of the examining physician with respect to the criteria for examinations. (NOAA Form 64-5, Part 1, EKG).