

KILLARNEY WATER RESCUE

HANDBOOK



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Introduction

Killarney Water Rescue (KWR) was formed in the Spring of 1995 following the tragic drowning of a local man.

The purpose of the organization is to assist in the Search and Recovery of person or persons missing in the water inshore or offshore.

KWR is a not for profit voluntary body funded entirely by the generosity of the public.

The main objective is to give closure to the family by recovering their loved ones in a dignified and professional manner.

We work in conjunction with other agencies such as Gardaí, Coast Guard, Kerry Mountain Rescue, Civil Defense, and Irish Naval Services.

As KWR is a voluntary body all members joining and assisting in searches do so at their own risk. By joining KWR the member agrees that KWR and its officers will not be liable for any injuries or losses incurred during training or searches.

1.0. KWR Mission Statement

To Provide a service to the public to in the Rescue , Search & Recovery of any persons lost @ sea, lakes, rivers or in waterways.

To help the Families of those lost to the water by recovering their loved ones in a timely manner.

To continuously train to maintain a state of readiness and expertise within the organization to provide the service in a manner safe to the Team Members and other bodies involved.

To provide assistance to other SAR organizations when requested.

2.0. KWR Committee

The committee of KWR is comprised of the following:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Training Officer

Diving Officer

Safety Officer

Communications Coordinator

PRO

Equipment Officer

All positions are held for a period of 1 year and suitable candidates are selected at the AGM.

3.0. Call out and Training Notification

- 3.1. A text will be sent out to all members for callouts and training.
- 3.2. All members are required to respond yes or no to the texts (excluding reminder texts)
- 3.3. Should any member fail to respond to 3 texts within a 12 month period then that member will be removed from the list (pending a committee review).
- 3.4. Any member changing their contact details should inform the Communications Coordinator ASAP.

4.0. Call out Procedures

- 4.1. Following a text notification of a call out the two appropriate first responders will be tasked to attend the search area to access the situation.
- 4.2. The remaining responders will assemble at base to prepare the necessary equipment for the search.
- 4.3. When the members have assessed the scene they will communicate with base on the requirements to begin the search.
- 4.4. The responding members should travel together to the site and begin the required search plan.

5.0. The Search

- 5.1. On arrival at the search site the members who have made the assessment will brief the team.
- 5.2. The PRO will liaise with the Gardaí and members of the public if required.
- 5.3. All communications with the Public and Media should be through the PRO.
- 5.4. Search methods will be discussed in a following section.
- 5.5. At the conclusion of the first day's search all members should contact base as to their availability for the following day / days.

6.0. The Recovery

- 6.1. The recovery of the victim should be done with dignity and remembering that the victim is somebody's Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Son, or Daughter.
- 6.2. If possible bringing the remains onshore should be done away from the public's view.
- 6.3. If after a recovery any member does not feel OK then Counselling will be available. PLEASE do not ignore this state of mind. It is good to talk about your feelings / emotions when this happens. It can happen to even the most experienced members at any time..

7.0. Search Techniques

- 7.1. If there is no search Coordinator already on site one will be appointed.
- 7.2. A shore search can be conducted by members in pairs with each pair having a VHF or mobile phone to communicate with the Coordinator.
- 7.3. A Boat Search can be conducted again in communication with the search Coordinator. Each boat will have a qualified coxn and at least one other person to search.

- 7.4. Divers on a line search from shore. As per the I.U.C. (Irish Underwater Council) Search and Recovery course a suitably qualified diver may dive solo on a line with a suitable linesperson on the other end of the rope directing the search pattern. A standby diver will be kitted up on shore as safety cover for those on the lines.
- 7.5. Divers on a search bar can be utilized if the Coordinator deems it necessary. A suitably qualified coxn with the help of another person in the boat to control the bar line will tow a search bar in reverse over a search grid. The number of divers on the bar will be determined by the Diving Officer.
- 7.6. Boats may be used to drag the bottom with a suitable coxn and at least one other person on the line dragging the hooks.
- 7.7. Boats may be used to drag a net on the bottom. This will utilize two boat teams.

8.0. Members conduct during a search

- 8.1. Only the PRO or appointed PRO on site is to communicate with the Press or members of the public on a search site.
- 8.2. All interactions should be handed over to him or her.
- 8.3. No details should be given out to anybody outside of this at any time.
- 8.4. Please remember that this is a very vulnerable time for the family of the victim.
- 8.5. All members will follow all reasonable instructions given to them by the designated person in charge... Failure to follow instructions will result in a disciplinary hearing with the organization's committee which may lead to the member being asked to stand down from the organization.

9.0. Debrief

- 9.1. All members will attend a full debrief at the conclusion of every search.
- 9.2. Any member not feeling OK at any time is urged to talk to other members and if necessary counselling can be provided free of charge to the member.

10.0. Training

- 10.1. Notification for training will be given with enough time to respond.
- 10.2. There will be a minimum of 15 training days during the year.
- 10.3. All members will be required to attend a minimum of 60% of the training days.
- 10.4. Training for divers will follow the CFT Search and Recovery course in conjunction with the appropriate boat training.

11.0. Recruitment

- 11.1. KWR will advertise locally throughout the year for new members.
- 11.2. There will be a cap of 20 members and a waiting list of prospective members.
- 11.3. All prospective members will be required to complete an application form.
- 11.4. Membership will include the following
 - Boat crews
 - Shore crews
 - Divers
 - Fundraisers

PRO

- 11.5. Any member wishing to take break for a time will be welcome to rejoin when their schedule allows them to recommit to KWR.

12.0. Fundraising

- 12.1. The current methods of fundraising are:

The Ring of Kerry Cycle (Clean up and Puncture Repair)

Street Collection in Killarney

Church Gate Collection (Sat and Sun)

Daly's Collection

We are in the process of looking for a 5th collection.

- 12.2. All members are required to attend at least 3 of these events as they are our only source of income.

13.0. Disciplinary Procedures

- 13.1. Any member whose conduct brings the name of KWR into disrepute will come before the committee to explain their actions and a disciplinary action or sanction may be taken.
- 13.2. Failure to respond to 3 text messages within a 12 month period will be deemed that the member has decided to step down from the club.
- 13.3. Any member who has stepped down from the club may re-join again following a new application.

14.0. Equipment

- 14.1. All equipment belonging to KWR is the responsibility of the equipment officer elected at the AGM each year.
- 14.2. The equipment officer shall maintain all equipment throughout the year as best practice.
- 14.3. All KWR branded clothing given out to members should be handed back to KWR should that member step down for any reason.
- 14.4. Full Face Mask may be held in the possession of a diver through the year but must be shown at the AGM to the equipment officer for inspection and verification of its condition. This would also be a suitable time to have such equipment sent away for servicing if required.
- 14.5. All GPS units may also be held by members through the year but must also be shown to the equipment officer at the AGM for verification of condition.
- 14.6. A log of all equipment will be maintained by the equipment officer to maintain traceability of all KWR equipment.
- 14.7. Any member keeping KWR equipment assumes responsibility for the said equipment during the year.
- 14.8. KWR does **NOT** supply personal equipment to members.

14.0 Publicity

14.1. Any and all images, photos and or videos taken of KWR personnel will remain the property of KWR for publicity use and may still be used after a member has stepped down from the organisation.