

**FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**GUIDANCE FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN DIVING**  
**WITHIN FALMOUTH HARBOUR AREA**



**COMMERCIAL VESSEL MOVEMENTS**

Falmouth is a busy commercial port with frequent shipping movements to and from Falmouth Docks, Carrick Roads and Falmouth Bay. It is imperative that these movements are not obstructed by other harbour activities, vessels deploying divers need to exercise particular care due to the length of time they need to recover divers and get under way.

**DIVING SIGNALS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Movement information is available seven days a week from Falmouth Pilot Radio which may be contacted on VHF channels 16 or 9 or by telephoning 07836 661668. Movement times and proposed routes should be carefully noted and diving operations planned so as to avoid any possibility of conflict. It should be noted that movements are not always punctual, it is necessary to allow for this when planning a dive. Operators are advised to notify Falmouth Coastguard of their route plans and dive sites.

All vessels engaged in diving operations are required to display the international code "A" flag in a prominent position. Small crafts unable to hoist flags must display a rigid replica of the "A" flag not less than 1 metre in height above the gunwhale. Measures shall be taken to ensure all round visibility of these signals.

The deployment of free swimming divers is strongly discouraged in any location where they might encounter either commercial or leisure vessels when surfacing. When free swimming divers are deployed they should be marked by a surface buoy and be escorted by a safety boat. Diving supervisors should ensure that they have an effective method of recalling divers should the situation require.

Boats operating divers should maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 16.

**EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID**

Any emergency whether diving related or not should be notified immediately to Falmouth Coastguard on VHF channel 16. All boats operating divers should have at least one person aboard with a knowledge of diving first aid procedures.

**INSURANCE**

In addition to any insurance cover required for divers, vessels deploying divers should be covered by a policy of insurance for third party liability for an amount of not less than one million pounds sterling.

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