

# SOP 5.08 – Night Operations

Section 5 – Emergency Procedures

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Electronically Controlled Document

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## Purpose

To outline the procedures for low light and night emergency response operations.

## Scope

All operational areas of Life Saving Victoria

## Procedures

At no time are on-water low light or night operations to occur without prior approval from the State Duty Officer or LSV Director – Lifesaving Services. Low light or night operations include operating for any activity, including emergency response, in conditions where reduced visibility due to low light exposes crews to increased risk.

Lifesavers are trained in saving lives and search and rescue and are provided with equipment to assist in this. There is however a limit beyond which such action is not expected and cannot be justified in terms of risks to others.

Known and inherent risk must be carefully weighed against the mission's chances for success and the gains to be realised. Personnel and equipment should not be jeopardised, nor the mission attempted, unless lives are known to be at risk and the chances of saving the lives are within the capability of the personnel and equipment available.

Surf Life Saving personnel and resources may be tasked to perform search / rescue operations during low light conditions. This Standard Operating Procedure sets out the procedures to be followed when responding to situations during low light conditions. Low light conditions are considered but not limited to the period leading up to and shortly after sun rise or sun set.

IRB emergency response operations during low light conditions and at night are referred to as 'night operations' in this SOP.

### Land Procedure

Land based searches between sunset and sunrise (night operations), similarly to day operations are to be conducted under the instruction and direction of the appropriate control agency (Victoria Police – Rescue Coordination Centre)

### Water Procedures

Water activities are not undertaken after last light or before first light.

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