

SOP 5.08 – Night Operations

Section 5 – Emergency Operations

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Effective Date – 10 December 2020

Review Date – 10 December 2022

Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To describe the procedure to be followed by applicable agency personnel involved in low-light and night-emergency response operations.

Scope

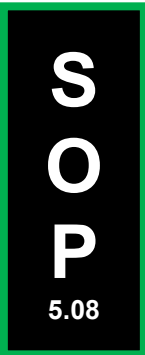
This standard operating procedure (SOP) applies to all Life Saving Victoria (LSV) personnel (i.e., paid staff, officers and volunteer members) where engaged in low-light and night-emergency response operations.

Policy Statement

Night operations include any activity, including emergency response, in conditions where there is reduced visibility due to the amount of light available.

Night operations impose an inherent risk and, before any activity is conducted, a thorough risk assessment must be conducted, and approval granted by the State Duty Officer (SDO).

At no time are on-water low-light or night operations to occur without prior approval from the SDO.



Definitions

Name	Definition
Low Light/Night Operations	Low Light/Night conditions are considered but not limited to the period of 30 minutes leading up to and shortly after sunrise or sunset.
MSAR	Marine Search and Rescue. LSV currently operates a number of MSAR vessels which are separate and distinct from lifesaving vessels. These vessels are governed by the Australian Marine Safety Authority and must have an approved safety management system (SMS) to operate.
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre

Procedure

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 changes 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.

Review

Date of Issue	10 December 2020
Date Effective	26 December 2020
Date to be Reviewed	1 July 2022
Date to Cease	10 December 2022

Authority

The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.