

# DIVING INCIDENT REPORT

## Cave and Technical Diving

**DEFINITION:** A Diving Incident is any error or unplanned event that could, or indeed did, reduce the safety margin for a diver on a particular dive. The error may have been made by anyone involved with the dive. It may also include equipment problems. The incident may have been preventable or unpreventable. Most incidents don't cause harm, but reporting such incidents will give valuable information when considered with other incidents. This form focuses on any incident occurring before, during or after a *cave or technical dive*.\*

\*Definition: Planned decompression, overhead environment, planned depth>40m, gas other than air or EANx 22-40% oxygen, use of rebreather.

**ANONYMITY:** Please **DO NOT** identify any person involved.  
This form will not be available to any legal process.  
Anonymity is assured.

**QUALITY:** Please **DO NOT** report hearsay incidents.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please read all boxes carefully. In addition to circling one or more options under each heading, write simply in your own words a description of what happened. This narrative is the most important component of the report.

Dr Richard Harris from the Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia will coordinate these cave and technical diving reports.  
Please return the completed form to:

**Diving Incident Monitoring Study (DIMS)**

**Hyperbaric Medicine Unit  
Royal Adelaide Hospital  
Adelaide 5000**

**AUSTRALIA** Fax: - 61-(0)8 82324207 or email [harry@divedoc.net](mailto:harry@divedoc.net)

**Whose incident was it?**

Yours    Your buddy  
Another diver

**Did the diver have any health problems prior to incident:**

Yes    No    Not known  
Specify:

**When was the incident detected (circle response):**

Preparation .....PP    Entry .....EN    Descent .....DS  
During dive .....DD    Ascent .....AS    Exit .....EX  
Following exit ...FE

**Did the incident cause harm:**

Yes    No    Not known  
Specify :

**Did the incident occur in training:**

Yes    No    Not known

**Total dives ever, by diver involved if known**

1-20    21-100    101-500    >500

**Total years of diving:**

**Diver's qualifications: (may circle >1)**

Diving student ..... DS    Open water .....OW  
Advanced diver.....AD    Divemaster .....DM  
Dive instructor... DI    Untrained .....UT  
Commercial ..... PD    Technical diver.....TD  
Not known ..... NK    Cave qualification...CV

**Details of qualifications:**

**Does the diver take any medication:**

Yes    No    Not known  
Specify:

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT:

Please describe incident in detail. Include ANY factor which you believe may have contributed to, or minimised the incident. If more than one incident occurred please fill out a separate form. Use extra paper if necessary.

Do you think the incident was preventable? Yes No Undecided

### First aid:

No O <sub>2</sub> available / limited O <sub>2</sub> supply O <sub>2</sub> ran out O <sub>2</sub> used inappropriately	Lack of trained 1 <sup>st</sup> aid assistance Lack of first aid supplies Poor first aid
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### Gas supply

<b>Gas supply in use during dive:</b> Air Nitrox Mixed gas O <sub>2</sub>
No/poor analysis pre-dive Cylinder labelling issue Confusion gas mix during dive
<b>Air consumption greater than usual this dive:</b> Yes No

**Contributing factors (Tick as many as you like):**

Inadequate knowledge	Poor physical fitness
Unfamiliar diving environment/conditions	Feeling unwell
Unfamiliar diving equipment	Error in judgement
Inexperience in diving (or relative to this site)	Poor communication
Poor dive planning	Malfunction of equipment
Insufficient training in diving (or relative to this site)	Failure to understand equipment
Failure to check	Lack of servicing of equipment
Lack of a buddy check	Poor servicing of equipment
Haste	Lack of post dive equipment maintenance
Inattention	Inadequate supervision of diver
Fatigue	Sea sickness
Anxiety	Poor technique
Recent illness	Recreational drug/alcohol/hangover pre dive

**Did the incident involve any of the following (you may circle more than one):**

Low air situation .....	LA	Problem at deco stop .....	DE
Out of air situation .....	OA	Poor buddy pairing .....	BP
Rapid ascent .....	RA	Poor buddy response .....	BR
Unable to slow rapid ascent ...	US	Loss buddy contact .....	BC
Out of air ascent .....	OR	Marine animal .....	MA
Buddy breathing .....	BB	Equalisation problem descent ...	ED
Octopus breathing .....	OB	Equalisation problem ascent ...	EA
Pony bottle breathing .....	PB	Equipment .....	EP
Multiple ascents .....	AA	Poor visibility/silting .....	PV
Buoyancy problem .....	BP	Strong current .....	SC
Problem on ascent .....	PA	Flying <24hrs after diving .....	FL
Problem at safety stop .....	SS	Altitude >300ms after diving ..	AL
Deco stop missed .....	DS	Panic .....	PC
Not detected by buddy check ...	ND	Anchor retrieval .....	AR
Nausea, vomiting U/W .....	NV	Entanglement/trapped/guideline..	ET

**Rebreather Use:**

**If a rebreather was in use: (may tick more than one)**  
 Semiclosed      Fully closed      Not known  
 Production model      Significantly modified      Home built /custom  
 Manual control      Electronic control      Brandname \_\_\_\_\_  
**Possible problems:** Oxygen toxicity      Hypoxia      High carbon dioxide      Sensor/readout      Scrubber      Caustic cocktail  
 One way valve      Lack of precheck/prebreathe      Buddy not familiar      Flood      Other Specify:  
**Gas used** (may tick more than one): 100% oxygen      Air      EANx      O2/He/N2      O2/He      Not known  
**Bailout** performed to open circuit?      Yes      Inadequate bailout?      Yes      Describe:

**Cylinder filling/Gas Blending Incidents:**

Gas contamination	Explosion/uncontrolled gas escape/pipe or hose rupture
Accidental over pressurisation of cylinder by more than 30bar	Oxygen fire
Dramatically unexpected analysis result	Cylinder labelling issue
Operator hearing damage	Incorrect gas
Other Specify:	

**Cylinder Configuration in use (Configuration not known )**

<b>Single tank:</b> Yes	<b>Twin tanks:</b> Independent back mounted Independent side mounted Manifolded Isolator problem Not known	<b>Sling Tanks or Stages?</b> Yes      No      Not known
		<b>Number:</b> One      Two      Not known <b>Configuration and contents if known:</b>

**Equipment involved in the incident (tick as many as applicable):**

Hired	Borrowed	New	Misuse	Essential equipment lacking	Equipment forgotten
Torch			Mask	Depth gauge	Mouthpiece
Surface signal device			BCD	Dive computer	Scooter
Dive Flag			Fins	Regulator	Reel or line
Alternative air supply			Snorkel	Watch/Timer	Shot/safety line
Weight belt			Wet suit	Camera/trophy bag	Gloves
Weights			Dry suit	Rebreather	Climbing equipment
Ankle weights			Lycra suit	Exit ladder	Other
Tank/cylinder			Knife	Boat	Specify:
Compressor/ Hookah			Contents gauge	Surface buoy	
Low to out of air			Inaccurate contents gauge	Free flowing 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage	Unable to locate alternative air supply
Contents not analysed prior to dive or incorrectly			Unable to read contents gauge	Octopus 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage problem	Air used frequently to maintain buoyancy
Air not turned on			Contents gauge hose rupture/leak	'O' ring problem	Tape on pillar valve
Air not turned on fully			Hose rupture/leak	Regulator breathing resistance increased	1 <sup>st</sup> stage attached incorrectly
Air turned on then off prior to dive			Pillar valve problem	Unable to purge 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage	Separation regulator parts
Air supply turned off inappropriately			1 <sup>st</sup> stage malfunction	Pony bottle problem	Swivel problem
Didn't check contents gauge regularly			2 <sup>nd</sup> stage malfunction	'Octopus' reg snagged	

**Miscellaneous Equipment (Tick as many as applicable):**

<p><b>Weights and weight belts:</b></p> <p>Overweight Underweight</p> <p>Unable to release</p> <p>Didn't know how to release</p> <p>Quick release jammed</p> <p>Tongue overlap stopped release</p> <p>Snagged during release</p> <p>Weight belt /weights dropped</p> <p>Snagged causing release</p> <p>BCD integrated weight problem</p> <p><b>Wet / dry suit:</b> Uncomfortable</p> <p>Tight - restricted breathing</p>	<p><b>Buoyancy Jacket (BCD):</b></p> <p>Unfamiliar with its use</p> <p>Spontaneously inflated</p> <p>Inflation device failed</p> <p>Inflator hose leaked</p> <p>Inflation device not connected</p> <p>Incorrect inflator hose</p> <p>Didn't know how to inflate BCD</p> <p>Didn't know how to deflate vest</p> <p>Inflator/octopus combination problem</p> <p>Dump valve malfunction</p> <p>Uncomfortable</p>	<p><b>BCD cont...</b></p> <p>Inflated restricted breathing</p> <p>Unable to deflate</p> <p>BCD air cylinder problem</p> <p>Unable to inflate</p> <p>Unable to inflate due to low air</p> <p>Provided inadequate buoyancy</p> <p>Confusion deflate/inflate buttons</p> <p>Buddy couldn't deflate vest</p> <p>Buddy couldn't inflate vest</p> <p>Leaked Incorrect size</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Specify :</p>
<p><b>Mask</b></p> <p>Flooding/dislodged caused panic</p> <p>Flooding/dislodged no panic</p> <p>Strap broke</p> <p>Unable to clear</p> <p>Clearing caused panic</p> <p><b>Dive tables</b></p> <p>Not used Misread</p> <p>Unable to understand</p>	<p><b>Dive computer</b></p> <p>Not used Inaccurate</p> <p>Stopped working</p> <p>Forgot to activate it</p> <p>Unable to read/layout confusing</p> <p>Battery problems</p> <p><b>Fins</b></p> <p>Strap broke Lost</p> <p>Caused cramp Incorrect size</p>	<p><b>Depth gauge</b></p> <p>Not used Inaccurate</p> <p>Unable to read</p> <p>Max<sup>m</sup> depth indicator problem</p> <p>Confusion units used</p> <p><b>Tank/cylinder</b></p> <p>Out of test Faulty</p> <p>Changed buoyancy</p> <p>Not secured in backpack</p> <p>Size change between dives</p>