

Guidance in the event of Handling Diving Equipment Post Accident

Personal Safety

If mishandled, diving equipment can be hazardous to health.

Do not place any person in a dangerous situation to recover any equipment.

Diving equipment may contain gas at high pressure.

Re-breathing equipment may contain hazardous chemicals.

Diving equipment may be heavy, ensure when lifting equipment that correct handling techniques are used.

General Procedure

DO NOT DISMANTLE THE EQUIPMENT

Record the following dive information:

- Date, time and location of incident.
- Dive time and maximum depth of dive for the diver and any companions.
- Dive plan, decompression schedules used and if completed correctly.

Try to handle the equipment as little as possible.

Note and record on recovery of equipment:

- If buoyancy device or dry suit hoses are connected on recovery.
- If equipment was damaged, prior to or during recovery.
- Information displayed on a dive computer at time of recovery.
- All pressure displays/gauges and record pressures.
- Any details displayed on other electronic instruments.

Gather together and isolate all equipment involved in the accident, including:

- Dive Slate/Logs covering previous 48 hours.
- If available at least one other gas cylinder charged from the same source.

Attempt (do not force) to close all cylinder and isolator valves, note and record number of turns required for each valve (1 turn = 360°).

Tape valves on cylinders and manifolds in the closed position.

Tape any controls or valves on regulators, buoyancy devices and dry suits (including swivel inflation connections) in the position found to prevent any inadvertent movement.

Specific for re-breathers

All re-breather mouthpieces to be closed.

The rebreather to be stored in an upright position.

Close any automatic overpressure exhaust valves (note number of clicks or turns needed to close valve).

Retain and keep with incident apparatus any samples of unused soda lime (from same batch) in the original container.

For storage and transportation

Allow any computer(s) to go into standby mode preferably by air-drying or switch computer off.

DO NOT

- Seal wet electronic equipment in plastic bag (a discharged battery can wipe any memory available).
- Leave valves open on cylinders.
- Vent the gas in a cylinder prior to transport.
- Move maximum depth recordings on analogue gauges.
- Change position on any regulator controls.