



Rebreather Diver Safety - White Paper

Background:

The Poseidon MkVI Rebreather has been involved in 5 incidents since its launch 5 years ago. In some of the cases, in combination with the relevant authorities, Poseidon has made a formal statement. In other cases, Poseidon is bound to secrecy due to the wishes of the authorities and families.

Based on the information that Poseidon has received so far from different authorities in relation to these incidents, including black box data, there are no indications that the equipment functionality or performance is the underlying cause behind any of these incidents.

Poseidon believes that a formal statement around these cases is very important to share the lessons learned for the benefit of all rebreather divers, regardless of the type of rebreather they use.

Lessons Learned for all Rebreather Divers:

The following points are listed without order of relevance, as they are all important. These points are all already known items. Poseidon does not claim to be providing new knowledge, but emphasizing certain key issues that are not being followed by divers in certain cases.

- ✓ Always perform a pre-breathe, regardless of what safety systems are installed on your rebreather
- ✓ Always use your manufacturer-provided checklist
- ✓ Never dive with a poor medical condition. If in doubt renew your medical exam
- ✓ Always ensure that all consumables are fully charged and properly installed
- ✓ Always listen to and follow the alarms generated by the rebreather. Failure to do so is a matter of life or death
- ✓ If any of the automated pre-dive checks fails, the failure is for real. Never force the equipment into dive mode
- ✓ Do not let anything disturb you while preparing your rebreather and dive equipment
- ✓ Always dive with a buddy
- ✓ If you are the only diver on CCR in a group of divers, brief the other divers about you CCR and signs that could tell your buddy that you are experiencing trouble (for example; bail-out valves, octopus, Buddy LED's and audio alarms)
- ✓ Always follow the instructions for use and in particular the safety instructions provided by the manufacturer
- ✓ Taking and following manufacturer-approved training is of the utmost importance. Be sure to refresh your skills through a certified agency or in confined water under supervision
- ✓ Keep your rebreather software up to date at all times, check for updates on a regular basis and register your equipment with the manufacturer where possible

Please follow these points at all times. Dive Safe!

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