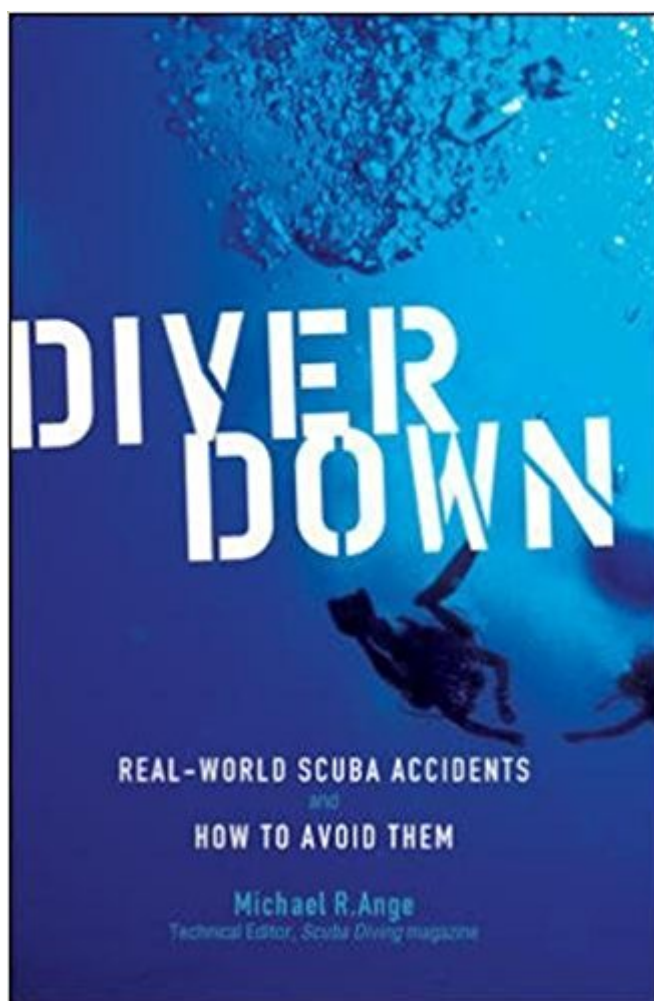


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# Diver Down: Real-World SCUBA Accidents And How To Avoid Them (International Marine-RMP)



## Synopsis

One diver, after a seemingly brief period below the surface, discovers that his gas supply has run perilously low. Another, paralyzed, bobs helplessly on the surface, and when a poorly trained divemaster attempts rescue, things go from bad to worse. Two other divers, fascinated by the bountiful undersea life of the Caribbean, fail to notice that a powerful current is sweeping them rapidly away from their unattended boat. These are just a few of the true stories you'll find in *Diver Down*, most of them involving diver error and resulting in serious injury or death. Each of these tales is accompanied by an in-depth analysis of what went wrong and how you can recognize, avoid, and respond to similar underwater calamities. This unique survival guide explores the gamut of diving situations, including cave and wreck diving, deep-water dives, river and drift diving, decompression sickness, and much more. It shows you how to prevent tragic mishaps through:

- Inspection and maintenance of primary and secondary diving gear
- Learning and following established safety protocols
- Confirming the training and credentials of diving professionals
- Practicing emergency responses under real-world conditions

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

True Tales of Trouble in the Deep and What You Can Learn from Them One diver, after a seemingly brief period below the surface, discovers that his gas supply has run perilously low. Another, paralyzed, bobs helplessly on the surface, and when a poorly trained divemaster attempts rescue, things go from bad to worse. Two other divers, fascinated by the bountiful undersea life of

the Caribbean, fail to notice that a powerful current is sweeping them rapidly away from their unattended boat. These are just a few of the true stories you'll find in *Diver Down*, most of them involving diver error and resulting in serious injury or death. This unique survival guide explores the gamut of diving situations, including cave and wreck diving, deep-water dives, river and drift diving, decompression sickness, and much more. It shows you how to prevent tragic mishaps through:

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Captain Michael R. Ange is the Managing Director of the Americas Division for the Professional Scuba Association International and contributing writer and technical editor for *Scuba Diving* magazine. During his diving career, Ange has trained more than 3,000 divers and several hundred instructors from around the world.

Michael R. Ange is a senior member of the Technical Training Staff for Scuba Diving International & Technical Diving International and contributing writer and technical editor for *SCUBA Diving* magazine. He has trained 2,000 divers and hundreds of instructors and has written five textbooks on diving.

I found this book fascinating and impossible to put down. It was valuable to me, as an intermediate Open Water diver, to be reminded that personal humility and respect for the tried-and-tested rules of diving, are essential values to keep in mind even as my skills advance. The storytelling element was strong, but each chapter also had a great summary of lessons learned, and educational technical sidebars. With all due respect to some of the tragic outcomes, this book reads like a thriller, with real-life stories that are touching and unforgettable.

I'm a Divemaster and I would recommend this book for everyone from entry level divers to dive professionals. It's a very good read. Most books like this that try to explain how to manage scuba diving accidents are kinda boring but this one kept my attention from beginning to end. I feel it made me a safer diver and a better Divemaster. It goes into detail on dive real life dive accidents, the events that preceded them, what happened during the emergency, and what happened after, as well as how it could have been prevented and how to prevent similar situations in the future.

I have been a Diver for well over 30 years. For experienced divers, this book is a great review of the mistakes that can be made when one is either overconfident or panicked. For the beginner, the

opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others is priceless. Diving is, generally, a very safe sport, provided proper training. This book shouldn't scare you or dissuade you from diving, but it should be a reminder to maintain a healthy respect for the water and the guidelines and limits established for safe diving.

This is a very informative, useful, and well-written book that should be must reading for OW divers (for that matter any diver who hasn't read it). I'm AOW and have been reading the accidents/incidents section of the scubaboard forum for a while, but this book is far more informative and to-the-point. The book starts out with a brief scuba 101 overview, then goes into case studies where some ended up as scares, others resulted in fatalities. The scenarios and causalities are varied which provides an appreciation of the range of issues that can go wrong if sufficient care and training are lacking. The case studies are vividly described so that these events, terrible and tragic as some are, come to life. The author has a knack for writing. Each case study ends with a lessons learned commentary and bullet points. Embedded in the case studies are inserts describing various scuba diving features/topics, such as regulator design and the function of hyperbaric chambers. Although I'm a techie, I didn't have an interest in regulator design, and the articles I read about them (balanced/unbalanced, diaphragm/piston, environmental seal, etc.) before and after purchasing my own gear were at best vaguely useful at a 20,000 feet conceptual level (for example, environmental sealing of 1st stage helps reduce free flow due to freezing in colder waters). However, after reading the inset on balanced piston regulator design (accompanied by essentially a single picture), I could follow the essential design principle of piston based balanced design just from reading the text. That's pretty damn good writing. Since mine is a balanced diaphragm design, I googled and looked at some images and could figure out how these gadgets worked, based on the principles described for the balanced piston design. This is one of the most informative and well-written books I've read in quite a while. I am not sure why it is not included as mandatory (or at least recommended) reading in PADI OW classes. Or perhaps it is but I haven't noticed.

This is a book that could really make you think in advance about some problems you might find yourself faced with. Diving can be a dangerous sport and this author has certainly highlighted some principals all divers should think about. The detail surrounding both recreational and technical concepts really expanded my views on the sport. Every diver should read this regardless of experience level to help themselves and their fellow divers.

Twenty diving incidents are described and analyzed in details as what was the probable cause, how they could have been avoided and what are the safety lessons learned. The Author does a great job in selecting a variety of scenarios. It should be part of any advanced, and maybe also any basic, diving training and for sure it should be part of the references of professional and technical divers.

I have over 200 dives, with over 1/4 of them in the last 7 months, and a PADI Master Scuba Diver rating. I really take exception to the one (or more) review that suggests this book is only for beginners (unless I'm a beginner, by their standards?). I just finished it and found it to be very worthwhile. The point of reading the book if you're an experienced diver is not to learn new facts about diving equipment or procedures, but to reflect after each accident story and ask yourself if you are currently, or ever have been, guilty of any of the offences that led to this person's accident. And for at least 1 or 2 of the accidents, the answer is that yes, I have been guilty of them either in the past or currently. As I was reading, I turned to my dive buddy\* and discussed how we could avoid such an accident, as well as suggesting some very short and easy practice drills we can work into our next dives (If you're curious, they include a full share-air ascent from bottom to surface, including safety stop, which can be practiced at the end of any dive). I therefore would argue that EVERY diver should read this book, with an exception. I think that to properly understand what is being discussed in the scenarios, one should have some experience to begin with. So I'd recommend you have basic experience (perhaps 20 dives?) before reading.\*I am lucky to have a regular diving buddy, which is advantageous for safety. If you are often paired with strangers, I'd recommend you try to get yourself into a monogamous dive-buddy situation. Monogamy with diving partners reduces the risk ;-)

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