

What If It HAPPENED? To You?

By SHECKEXLEY

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Mary Ellen Eckoff

Before the Dive, What If...

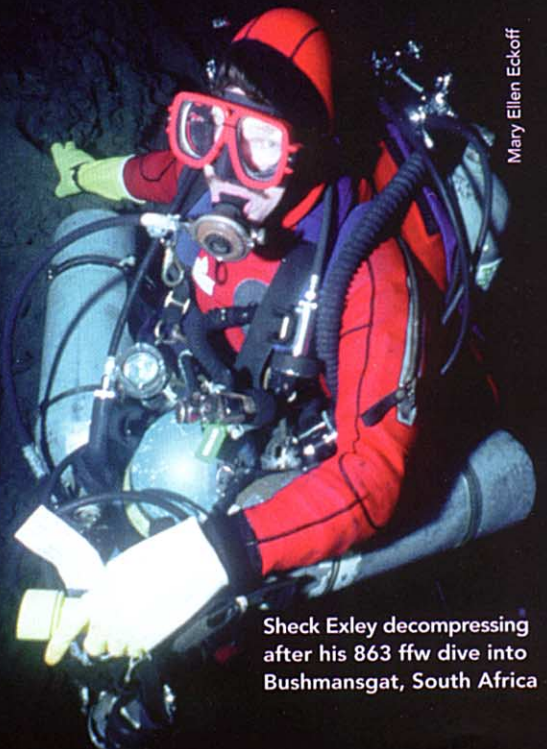
- The gas company put the wrong gas in the cylinder you fill from?
- The wrong grade of helium is in them?
- There are impurities in the gas?
- You miscalculate your mixtures and have too much oxygen?
- Too little oxygen?
- Too much Nitrogen?
- Too much helium?
- The gauge for mixing is wrong?
- The filling temperatures are different?
- The dive shop filling your tanks allows the gas to bleed back into their bank system?
- Your cylinders contain flammable materials and you put in pure oxygen?
- The dive shop tops your deep tanks with bad air?
- A pinhole leak allows the helium to leak but other gases remain?
- You get the cylinders mixed up while filling?

On the Descent, What If...

- You don't have enough oxygen when you submerge?
- Your depth gauge reads shallow?
- A tank you thought had trimix was really nitrox, etc.?
- You overbreathe your regulator?
- You have a delay before ascending?
- You have a delay on the way down?
- You have to exert a lot on the bottom?
- You have a five minute line entanglement, etc., on the bottom?
- You lose your dive partner on the bottom?
- You get blown from the dive site?
- You lose your mask?

During Decompression, What If...

- The decompression tables you have don't work?
- You lose your decompression tables?
- You lose your watch?
- You lose your depth gauge?
- You run out of decompression gas?
- You drop one of your decompression cylinders?
- Someone steals your decompression cylinders?
- Your decompression cylinders have leaked?
- You are delayed at a decompression stop?
- Danger from hazardous marine life keeps you from completing your decompression?
- Your dry suit floods?
- You get hypothermia?
- You get the bends?



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Sheck Exley decompressing
after his 863 ffw dive into
Bushmansgat, South Africa