

# IANTD Incident Report Form

*Confidential Information Gathered in Anticipation of Litigation!*

## Member Submitting Report:

Name: **Andrzej Kruczkowski** Email: [andrzej@exstream.com.pl](mailto:andrzej@exstream.com.pl)  
Cell Phone #: +48602235345  
Address: Ścinawska 16/4, 53-442 Wrocław, Poland  
Cert. Level: TMX ITT Cert. #:123  
Insurance Co.: DAN Insurance #:74151

## Injured Diver:

Name: **Krzysztof Grzegorz Betiuk** Male  
Cell Phone #: +48502059413  
Email: kg.betiuk@gmail.com  
Address: Myśliwska 33E/113 Gdańsk 80-283  
Cert. Level: TDI Advanced Nitrox In Training: IANTD Cave Diver  
Age: 29 Marital Status: Single Personal Dive Accident Insurance: DAN  
#659454  
Emergency Contact: Krystyna Betiuk +48504049022 (mother)

## General Information:

Date of Incident: 05.01.2017 Time of Incident: 11:40  
Location of Incident: Italy, Fontanazzi Cave  
Fatality: the reason unknown yet, autopsy not performed yet.  
First-Aid/Resuscitation provided: First-Aid: O2: CPR: not relevant  
Other:  
Rescue action undertaken in attempt to release the diver stacked in the crack.  
EMS Response: Yes ; if yes Name EMS: Primo Soccorso  
Injured diver transported to: body transported to Bassano del Grappa Hospital  
Recompression treatment? : No  
Did Law enforcement respond to incident? Yes  
Name of Law enforcement agency(ies): Carrabinieri  
Names of responding/investigating officers: Giampaolo Bao, Vito Sitran  
Liability Release for incident dive? Yes **the copy provided.**

## Dive Information:

Type of Dive: Training  
Training: IANTD Cave Diver & Instructor Course  
Supervised: training  
Organized dive trip: yes

## If incident dive was a training dive complete the following:

Name of course: IANTD Cave Diver & IANTD Cave Instructor  
Instructor: Andrzej Kruczkowski  
Type & Number of training of dive: Training dive #6  
**Submitted with this Incident Report: Injured Diver's Student Training Records, Medical**

## **Questionnaire, Liability Release**

Injured diver's dive partner: Wojciech Nowak

Contact information: Wojciech Jan Nowak +48724132850,  
info@osmiornica.eu

Injured diver diving with more than one (1) partner? Yes

List all partners and contact information: Marcel Korcuś +48500280289,  
marcel\_korkus@onet.eu

Maximum depth of incident dive: 5m

Total underwater time of incident dive: 5 min

Objective of dive: Cave training

### **Dive plan:**

before the dive in the cavern area

- S-drill (leak-check each team member's equipment, breathe underwater from all regulators, light checks)
- V-drill (valve shutdowns combined with regulator switches, including shutting both regulators),
- gas sharing drill,
- equipment check for proper function of each dive buddy,
- communicate the gas turn point,

Max depth of the dive 30 m, 1/3 rule for gas management.

Drop Oxy tank on the line at 6m before entering the cave in the cavern area

Skills practice at bottom depth 9-20 m:

- drop and recover the decompression cylinder stationary and while swimming,
- recovery of lost line in blacked mask,
- navigation drills: traverse, gap, circuit dive.
- at some point on Instructor order simulate being out of gas.

Prior Dives in 24 hours before incident: Yes,

describe: 39m/40min BT/10 min Deco/ 04.01.2017 11.30

surface intervals: 23h

### **Injured Diver's Equipment:**

Open Circuit: Side Mount (x12l SM Air + s80 Bottom stage EAN30 + 7l Deco stage Oxy)

Rental Equipment: Yes ; if yes, list all rental equipment:

SM harness XDEEP Stealth Tec rented from Dive school Ośmiornica Ltd.  
2 x12 l Faber 200bar DIN steel Tank rented from Dive school Ośmiornica Ltd.

1x s80 Luxfer Alu Tank DIN with regulator rented from Exstream Dive Center

1x 7l Luxfer Alu Tank DIN rented from Dive school Ośmiornica Ltd.

Diver supplied equipment: Yes ; if yes, list all diver supplied equipment:

Drysuit SubGear Extender, Undersuit Northern Diver Metallux, Hood, dry gloves with spanner rings

Mask Northern Diver, backup mask

Fins Manta 112

Weights 12kg

Regulators: 3 x Cressi MC-9SC XS-Comact Pro (1 with 2.1m long hose) with submersible Pressure Gauges scaled in bar. 1x Aqualung LX with SPG on the long hose.

Computer Cressi Leonardo, Digital

Helmet

Lights: Helmet lamp, O`tools main light, 2 backup lights

Cutting devices x2

Mask cover blacked out drills.

Hand slate

Primary reel, safety reel, spool

Directional markers 6x, cookies 3x

Diver's equipment recently purchased or serviced from person completing this form: No

Were there any apparent equipment problems? No

Was the injured diver using a dive computer? Yes Brand: Model: Cressi Leonardo

Does the injured diver's computer indicate any alarms or violations? No

Gas: Air, Nitrox 30, Oxygen

Gas remaining in all injured diver's cylinders; describe the cylinder, gas content and amount remaining

12 l Faber 200bar DIN steel Tank Air - 190 left

12 l Faber 200bar DIN steel Tank Air - 190 left

1x s80 Luxfer Alu DIN Tank Ean30 - 190 left

1x 7l Luxfer Alu DIN Tank OXY - not recovered - not used

Current location of injured diver's equipment: Uffici del Comando Stazione Carabinieri Solagna

Is the dive equipment being tested? Yes if yes, by who?: Vigili del Fuoco

### **Water Conditions:**

Body of Water: Fontanazzi Cave

Overhead Environment: yes

Water Temperature: 9C

Visibility: 15m

Current: no

### **Witnesses:**

Name: Marcel Korkus

Telephone #: +48500280289

E-mail: Address: [marcel\\_korkus@onet.eu](mailto:marcel_korkus@onet.eu)

Name: Wojciech Jan Nowak

Telephone #: +48724132850

E-mail: Address: [info@osmiornica.eu](mailto:info@osmiornica.eu)

Name: Barbara Widera – surface support  
Telephone #: +48602363741  
E-mail: Address: [barbara.widera@pwr.edu.pl](mailto:barbara.widera@pwr.edu.pl)

### **Description of the incident:**

Krzysztof was certified TDI Advanced Nitrox, SDI Limited Wreck Penetration. During his cave course he did all his dives in sidemount configuration and he performed very well.

He did three diving days (5 dives):

Elefante Bianco max depth to 39m, (overall time 120 min) Oliero - Siori, max depth to 20 m, (overall time 120 min) Oliero - Veci, max depth to 39 m (overall time 100 min). The fatal dive was planned in Fontanazzi, for max depth 30m, (average 20m). This cave is regularly used for cave diving courses and especially for sidemount configuration, which was planned for that day. The conditions underwater were perfect. No current, very good visibility. The entrance to Fontanazzi has restriction but it is normally passed easily by each diver in SM configuration. Krzysztof had 4 tanks (2 SM Air + Bottom stage EAN30 + Deco stage Oxy). Oxygen tank should be placed on the depth of 6m, on the line, in the entrance/exit of the cave. **According to the plan the instructor who was leading the group descent first, followed by second diver (student) 1 minute later. Krzysztof was supposed to be 3rd (also after 1 minute) and the second instructor was closing the group.**

Krzysztof, instead of waiting for his turn to go down on the line, swam 3 meters to the left, although he was clearly instructed never to get away from the line. It was before he even entered the cave, at the 5 meters depth. What could be only suspect that he was preparing himself to deposit the oxygen stage. Most likely he unclipped it and the tank has fallen down into the crack. Probably he was trying to reach for it (it was suggested by the position of the body) and got stacked. One minute later the next diver (the TDI TMX Instructor #19696, IANTD Cave Instructor Candidate) who was following him started to descent and noticed that Krzysztof is in the wrong place, with head down, fighting, with a lot of bubbles coming out. He reached to his leg and tried to pull him out but he realized that the diver is seriously blocked. He could not drag him out for about 2-3 minutes, but he knew that the tanks were full. To his surprise and shock after 3 minutes the bubbles stopped coming out and there was no response at all from the diver. He tried again to release the diver but without effect. So he surfaced to call for help.

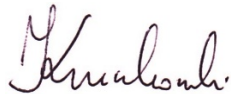
The person responsible for surface support immediately called other two Italian divers who had their equipment ready, because they planned the dive as the next group. She also called DAN International and Italian diver called 118.

**The first instructor was at the depth of 18m with another diver, waiting for the other two to come down.** When he did not see them for too long he ordered surfacing and of course he left the cave as the last one. When he reached 5 meters and saw the situation he joined the rescue action. However, it was impossible to release Krzysztof. After 30 min. of rescue attempts, seeing that the diver is obviously not responding and not breathing, the group decided to quit the

action and wait for Soccorso Speleologico. After 30 min. of rescue attempts, seeing that the diver is obviously not responding and not breathing, the group decided to quit the action and wait for Soccorso Speleologico. The body was recovered from the water by appropriate Italian services. The autopsy is expected to be carried out on Monday.

The police (Carabinieri) and Fire Brigade checked all the tanks and regulators of all the divers and confirmed that the tanks were full, all the gasses were OK and mixes correctly described. The profiles on diving computers were also checked by the appropriate services. The police collected all the statements and told us that we have done everything possible in this situation and they have no further questions for us so we can come back to Poland according to the plan and leave the formal part related to body transport to the country to the representatives of DAN. Italian emergency and Fire Brigade also said that the rescue action was undertaken properly and they do not see any mistakes from the part of other divers except from the irrational attempt of the accident victim to reach for the fallen tank.

Andrzej Kruczkowski

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Kruczkowski', written in dark ink.