

March 20, 1987

NOAA DIVING SAFETY BULLETIN 87-1

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL NOAA DIVERS

FROM: J. Morgan Wells
NOAA Diving Coordinator

SUBJECT: NOAA Diving Safety Bulletin 87-1

DIVING ACCIDENT REPORT

During a recent Operational Diving Class a student suffered Decompression Sickness (Type II) during a routine chamber orientation dive. Sixteen divers were pressurized to 125 FSW for a :08 bottom time, and decompressed on the U.S. Navy Standard Air Decompression Table 130'/:15 with a :01 decompression stop at 10 feet.

This was the first dive of the day for all divers, and they were pressurized to 125 FSW in groups of four, only one student experienced a decompression problem.

The onset of symptoms was :10 post dive but were not reported to the diving supervisor until 1 hr. post dive. The student reported the he was feeling pain and fatigue in his right leg and hip. He stated the symptoms went away with exercise but recurred while in the sitting position on the floor.

The student was examined at the NOAA Diving Facility and found to have decreased pin-point discrimination in the dorsal aspect of the right thigh and lateral aspect of the right lower leg.

The student was transported to Virginia Mason Hospital Hyperbaric Facility, he was treated on a U.S. Navy Treatment Table 6, with extensions at both 60' and 30'. The student was asymptomatic upon completion of the hyperbaric treatment, examined by a Diving Medical Officer and give post treatment instructions.

The orientation dive was routine procedure, well within the limits of the decompression table, none of the other students were affected.

Note: Report any an all signs or symptoms to the Diving Supervisor promptly after being under pressure.