



DIVING SAFETY ADVISORY

Required Safety Measures During UH Chamber Closure

TO: UH Scientific Divers

FROM: David Pence, Diving Safety Officer

The UH Hyperbaric Treatment Center located at Kuakini Hospital (HTC) is the only multi-lock, multi-place hyperbaric facility in the Hawaiian Islands for the treatment of serious decompression illness (DCI) of civilian divers. The UH Diving Control Board (DCB) has been notified that the HTC will be closed for necessary maintenance and repairs beginning June 28 for at least seven weeks. During this period, emergency treatment resources for DCI will be severely limited. Serious cases will require evacuation to a US Mainland treatment center and only if a treatment center is available and approves receipt of the transfer of the injured diver.

Upon consideration of this deficit in local emergency response capabilities, on May 25, 2021 the DCB approved the following operational restrictions on all UH-affiliated diving operations to mitigate DCI risk:

- No dive may be performed that requires decompression stops, other than standard precautionary stops.
- Use of dive computers are required on all open water dives, with each computer set to its highest conservatism setting.
- Diving is limited to a maximum depth of 100fsw with no more than one dive per day deeper than 60fsw.
- Dives deeper than 60fsw must be conducted using Enriched-Air Nitrox, with the dive computer remaining on air setting (FO₂ = 21%).

UH Principal Investigators and Lead Divers are advised to incorporate these limits in their planning for current and future dive plans beginning June 28 and continuing until the DCB is notified that HTC is once again operational. The DCB believes these necessary measures can be implemented by the large majority of UH research projects with minimal impacts on operational capability. Should essential operations require a deviation from the above limits, approval from the DCB must be requested and received before the operations are conducted. For more information, Please contact me, or your local Unit Diving Coordinator.