

VARIOUS QUOTES FROM SECTIONS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

These are some pertinent extracts from the questionnaire database. The Excel sheet is available for all to download from the Cognitas website (www.cognitas.org.uk/report) for anyone to view and conduct analysis; only identifying data had been removed (initials and year of birth plus location) plus one comment which has been assessed as potentially identifying.

Report and Database Format Section

-“Can always learn from human error and how this relates to procedures and systems in place taught by agencies. However this reporting would have to be free from blame, otherwise it would just negate what you are trying to do here. I'm not sure how you are going to do that...”

-“When published in the incident report some of the reports are very sparse containing little information. They still however provide a useful starting position to ask “what would I do in that situation”

-“All of the above, but most importantly remove the agency bias.”

-“Type of data relevant to an incident depends on the incident & the interpretation of the factors causing the incident. Addition of one type of information only would not make any improvement or would improve only a percentage of reports.”

-“I feel that the systems that are currently in place are fit for purpose at present. I would suggest that its not a new system that we need to set up but make suggestions and recommendations to the current agency information available.”

-“In my humble opinion the reporting should be divided into levels. The first level should be the simplest possible, and requested of all individuals present, regardless of skill level or type of involvement, to fill in themselves. Ideally one sheet with the front collecting standardized information, and the reverse for write in.

The second level contains more details which may be more applicable to be filled by attending dive professionals, emergency medical professionals, etc.

The final level to be filled with subjective and objective accounts by the treating medical professionals and, if surviving, the individual(s) involved in the incident.

It is also in my opinion that Human Factor Error, Diver Physiology, Technical, and Equipment information are all of equal importance. However, there are several problems with the collection and reporting of these. Human Factor Error reporting is going to be subjective observation which will often be flawed and/or conflicting reports between various observers with differing points of view and backgrounds.

The Diver Physiology information would be highly inaccurate if filled by anyone other than a medical professional, and then still suspect if the professional does not have specialization in dive medicine. A standardized report form to be provided to the attending physician may be of benefit here. The Technical information should, in theory, be formalized by the governing agencies and available for analysis for causal factors, however individual instructors may have deviated from standards. It may be prudent to document not only agency affiliation, but the instructors the individual has trained under. Through collection of data a correlation between individual instructors and incidents may be realized.

The equipment information also has issues in that, in order to ascertain equipment condition, changes may occur to the equipment which, could, end up being considered tampering with a crime scene/evidence. Further, some individuals use equipment that is not familiar to the majority of divers.”

Reasons Why Reports Were Not Submitted

-“What happens and what is reported are not always the same, I was present at a divers death and read the report sometime later and the report was considerably different”

*-“It was a fatality on a ***** project and it was felt by the directors that it was best to maintain a low profile about the incident for 'the good of the project”*

-“It was my first qualified dive and so left it to the Dive Manager to report it as appropriate. It went to the Diving Officer but not any further AFAIK.”

-“Expected report to be submitted by more senior member, but ultimately it wasn't.”

-“Another school was responsible for the incidents and did not want to get them into trouble”

-“Simply didn't occur to me at the time (and I would have had to make an effort to find out how to do it). Easy access to/awareness of a reporting system would be good.”

-“1: I am not a BSAC diver so didn't feel it was my place. I feel the BSAC incident list is ultimately there to improve or modified BSAC training systems.

2: I'd want an easy access non-agency form on the internet to fill out.

3: I'd want scope to put in key data but I'd want that open to peer review so as to avoid bias.”