

## Dramatischer Deco-Unfall nach Höhlentauchgang auf Abacos

- > The following is my best account of the facts. My last
- > dive was on Abaco on 20-DEC-07 in Dan's cave led by
- > Brian Kakuk. This was a double stage dive with a 97min
- > BT with 50 min of deco 3 at 30ft and 47 at 20ft. A
- > short section of the cave dipped to 140fsw while most
- > of the cave was around 80fsw. Deco was completed,
- > however I felt stomach cramps and feeling like I had
- > to poo. I wrote this to Brian on my wrist slate. I did
- > an extra 8 minutes at 20fsw and then slowly ascended.
- >
- > *I lost control of my bowels and a few moments later of*
- > *my body.* Brian unclipped my sidemount tanks and pulled
- > me out of the water. *At this point I was completely*
- > *paralyzed.* Using my sidemount harness Brian hauled my
- > body up a trail about 150ft distance and about 30ft
- > vert elevation. I could feel my body I just couldn't
- > move it. My body felt like a big blob.
- >
- > Once at Brian's van I re-gained some motor control,
- > enough to sit on the back of the van while Brian
- > stripped me out of my harness and peel down the top of
- > my wet suit. Doned a warm coat, O2 reg and off to
- > Marsh Harbor Clinic.
- >
- > A short stop here while transportation options were
- > arranged. The fastest option wound up being Nassau.
- > I was awake and had motor control. Lear jet ambulance
- > to Nassau. Once landed, the ambulance(land type) crew
- > couldn't find the chamber, ufb. Finally arriving I
- > was loaded in for a **table 6 with an extension**. This
- > ride was semi-uneventful, I was sweating a lot, at the
- > end of the ride I was soaked in sweat. I was
- > evaluated, used the bathroom and then went into the
- > shower to rinse off.
- >
- > **As this cool water hit my body I suffered a seizure,**
- > **which is the worst feeling I can describe of**
- > **involuntary body convulsions, next memory I was on the**
- > **floor.** This is Thursday evening 20-Dec-07.
- > =====
- > **There is a 7 day gap in my memory,** during which time I
- > was transported to Mercy Hospital in Miami, intubated
- > and was told **I was in a coma for a day or two.** Blood
- > pressure was low, EKG was irregular and brain activity
- > was shutting down, in short I was dieing. I have one
- > distinct memory from this time and it was where I had
- > a choice to live or die, and if I wanted to live I had
- > to fight to breath, so I fought for every breath.
- > =====

- > My next memory was a week later Thursday 27-Dec-07 as
- > I drifted in and out. I was intubated and restrained.
- > I was trying to write notes to people, at first they
- > were scribble, slowly my motor skills improved, so I
- > could be understood.
- >
- > On Sat 29-Dec I got the intubation tube out and was
- > transferred out of ICU. A cup of ice chips is pure
- > heaven after having a tube for a week.
- >
- > **On Tuesday 1-Jan-08 I was released, my balance is**
- > **about 95% and my strength is about 60%. My breathing**
- > **is a little weird, it takes work for a full breath.**
- >
- > My diving is on hold, some doctors say never, others
- > say 6 months. I say 1 year at least maybe more. I had
- > arrived at a limit for myself of 3 days of
- > consecutive diving(some deco) and I let the pressure
- > of a limited amount of time push me beyond my own
- > limits.
- >
- > Brian Kakuk saved my life, Thank you Brian, which
- > seems so completely short, where a thousand Thank
- > You's still wouldn't be enough.
- >
- > Cliff
- >
- > Clifford Sifton