

To Dive or Not to Dive:

DAN Asks:

When Do You Decide It's Time to Cancel A Dive or Even Pass It Up?

A tough decision certified divers sometimes have to make is when to cancel a dive or forgo a second dive after something has gone awry. Many divers in the Incident Insight cases profiled bimonthly may have avoided trouble had they aborted their dives and given themselves 12 or 24 hours to start again. Aside from the frustration of paying for your dive and then not making one, divers often don't want to appear weak or hesitant. Also, they may have invested a lot of time in the planning and travel for this dive.

The DAN member describes (page 23) a simple problem that led him to abort a dive and to try again under more favorable conditions. He made a wise and positive choice. Often unexpected weather conditions, sudden illness or equipment difficulties intervene when we're diving. Or we make a mistake on the first dive and can't really make up for it without skipping our second dive. All are good reasons. Like our diver, better safe now and dive later, than sorry all around.

Following the Member's story of his aborted dive, the DAN Medical Department offers some examples of cases we've addressed over the years. They may help divers identify when not to continue diving.

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