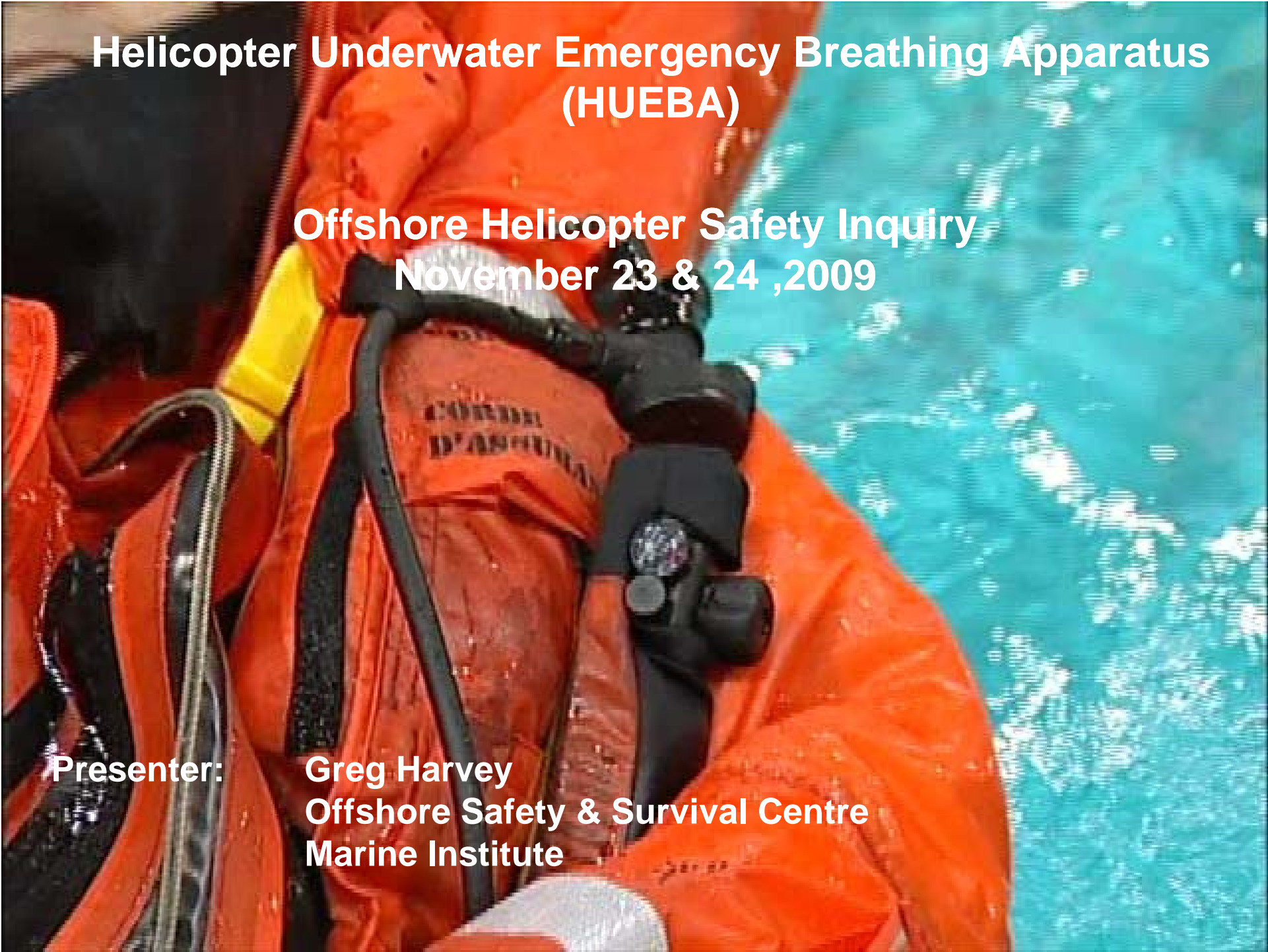


Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA)

Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry
November 23 & 24 ,2009

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Offshore Safety & Survival Centre
Marine Institute



Introduction

- Review the rationale for HUEBA
- Review HUEBA equipment and operation
- Identify the hazards and limitations associated with using HUEBA
- Review HUEBA practical

Rationale for HUEBA

- 2007 world-wide offshore helicopter operational data: (OGP Report 2009)
 - Over 9 million passengers
 - Over 900,000 flying hours
 - 10 accidents
 - 5 fatalities
- 5 year average:
 - 16 accidents
 - 5.8 fatalities



Rationale for HUEBA

- Out of 110 accidents: (Taber & McCabe 2006)
 - 69 (63 %) capsized
 - 27 remained afloat
 - 38 sank



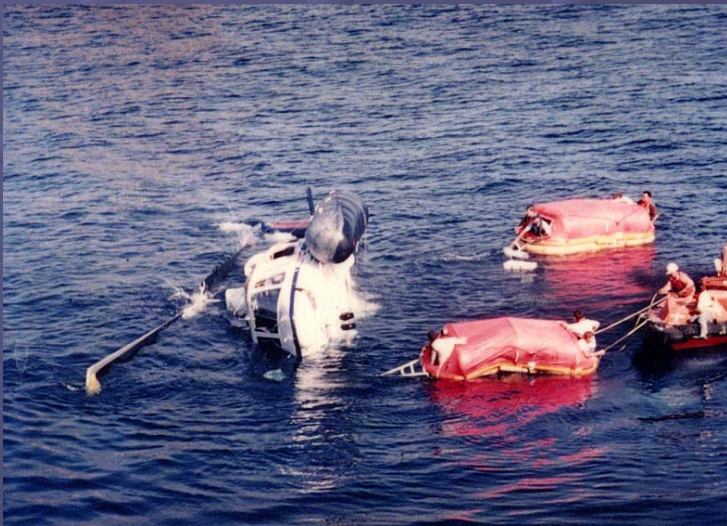
Rationale for HUEBA

- Capsize equally likely in both ditching and crash landings: (Cliffords 1996)
 - 69% controlled
 - 56% limited control
 - 65% fly-ins
 - 68% uncontrolled



Rationale for HUEBA

- 83% of UK military fatalities due to drowning with only 17% due to impact injuries (Cliffords 1996)



Rationale for HUEBA

- High incident of capsizes = high incident of drowning
- Cause of drowning;
 - Incapacitation due to injury
 - Disorientation
 - Jammed or obstructed exit
- Cold Shock single most important factor limiting escape of an uninjured person

Rationale for HUEBA

- Suggested times required to escape from a capsized helicopter are between 40 – 60 seconds (Tipton et al, 1997)
- Average breath-hold times: (Cheung et al, 2001)
 - 25 C = 37 s
 - 16 C = 29.7 s
 - 1 C = 15.9 s
 - Cold Shock BHTw as little as 6s with average < 20s (CAA Report 2003)
- Need to bridge the gap between breath-hold and escape time

Two Solutions

1) Re-breather

- *Survival in the Sea Project (Shell) 1989*
 - Extent underwater survival time
 - Without introducing additional dangers
 - Simple to use
- **Air Pocket® Re-breather**
 - Counter lung, hose, mouthpiece and nose clip
 - Allows respiratory movement
 - Re-breathe 2 to 4 times as long as holding breath



OSSC Presentation to Offshore
Helicopter Safety Inquiry

Two Solutions

2) Compressed air

- Military worldwide



Compressed Air HUEBA

- HUEBA - Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus aka:
 - EBS – Emergency Breathing System
 - HEED – Helicopter Emergency Egress Device
 - HABD – Helicopter Aircrew Breathing Device
 - HEBE – Helicopter Emergency Breathing Equipment
 - UER – Underwater Escape Re-breather
 - STASS – Short Term Air Supply System
 - APP – Air Pocket Plus
 - SEA – Survival Egress Air

Compressed Air HUEBA

- First HEBE developed in 1975
- Early 1980's US Navy and Canadian Forces started using 'Spare Air'
- 1986 Canadian Forces switched to HEED2
- 1990 US Navy switched to US Divers Inc HABD
 - 1994 Canadian Forces switched
- 1992 Royal Navy started using STASS
 - 1993 unit for ordinary passengers P-STASS
- 2000 CAPP starts looking into EBS
 - 2004 selects US Divers SEA LV2

Benefits of HUEBA

- HUEBA benefits include additional time to: (CAA Paper 2003/13)
 - Overcome panic
 - Overcome disorientation
 - Release a jammed or snagged seatbelt
 - Identify alternate exits
 - Cross fuel cell to exit
 - Jettison an exit
 - Overcome any snagging due to structural damage of the airframe
 - Overcome impact injuries

Equipment & Operation

Aqua Lung
Survival Egress Air
(SEA-LV2 Exxon)



Aqua-Lung EBS



Helicopter Aircrew Breathing Device (HABD)

GEN 1



Survival Egress Air MK (SEA-MK)

GEN 2

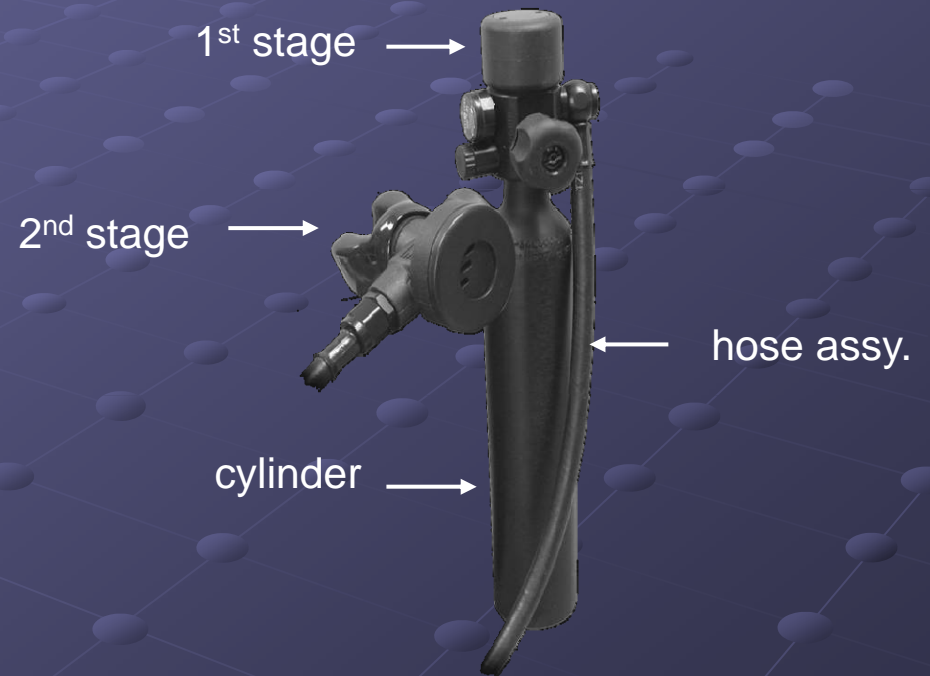


Survival Egress Air LV2 (SEA-LV2)

GEN 3

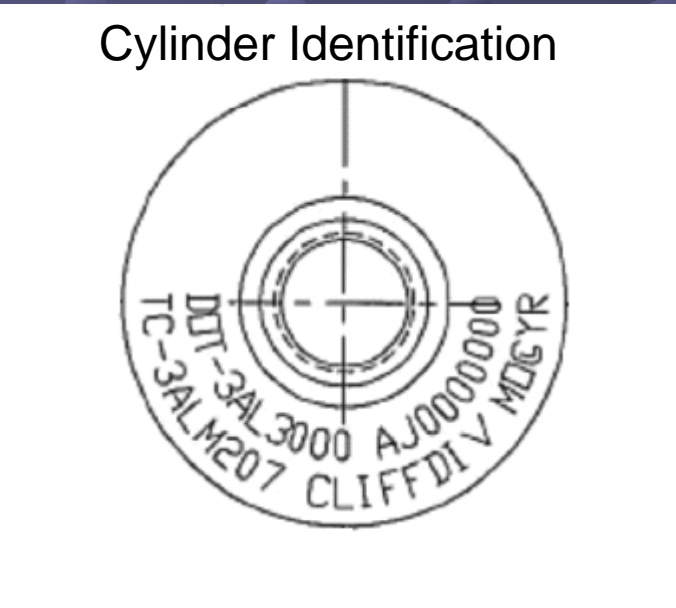
SEA LV-2 (Exxon) Major Components

- Cylinder stores HP air
 - 21% oxygen & 78% nitrogen
 - 3000 psi
 - 1.5 cubic feet
- 1st stage reduces HP air
 - intermediate pressure 135 (+/- 20 psi)
- Hose delivers air to 2nd stage
- 2nd stage delivers air at ambient pressure

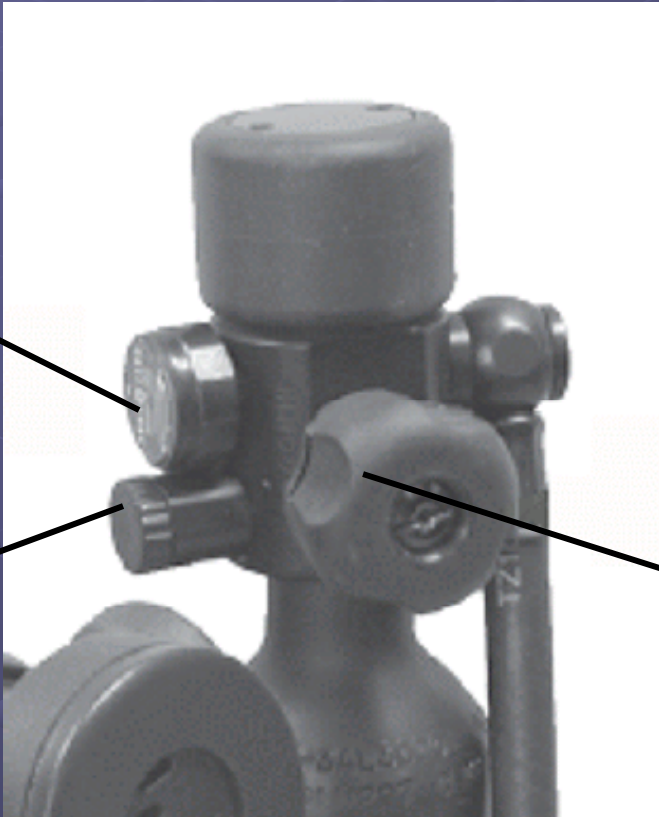
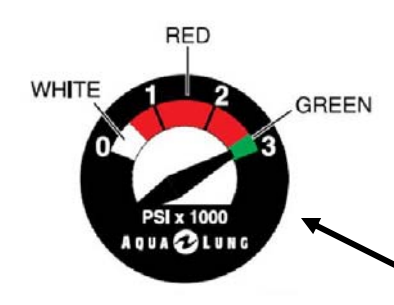


Cylinder

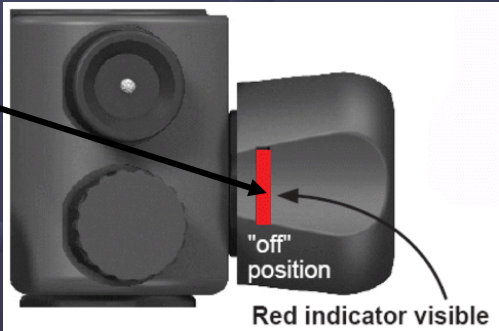
Cylinder Specifications	
Air Volume	1.5 cu/ft / 42.5 liters
Service Pressure	3000 PSI / 207 BAR
DOT Test Pressure	5000 PSI / 345 BAR
TC test Pressure	4500 PSI / 310 BAR
Aluminum Alloy	6061-T6



1st Stage

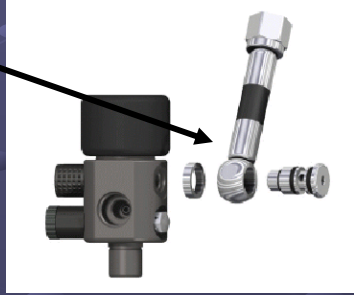


- Dial gauge
- Fill port
- On / off knob
- Burst disk



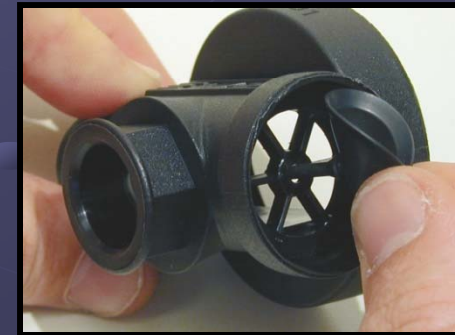
Hose Assembly

- Swivel adapter
- Hose
 - 28 inches
 - 3/16 I.D.
 - Low pressure



2nd Stage

- Low volume
- Open circuit demand valve
- Indexable mouthpiece
- One-way exhaust valve
- Purge button



Breathing Routine

- Place 2nd stage mouth piece in your mouth and breathe
- If necessary (U/W) clear the second stage
 - Blast method
 - Using purge button
- Inhale first breath cautiously



When to use HUEBA

- Deploy just before submersion
- If unable to deploy prior to submersion
 - Decide whether to escape without HUEBA
 - Deployment could delay escape by 5 to 10 s
 - Deploy and clear HUEBA

HUEBA Limitations

- Intended for use as an emergency egress device
- Limited air supply with endurance depending on:
 - Breathing rate
 - Work rate
 - Water temperature
 - Depth
 - With or without face mask
 - Charge in cylinder



HUEBA Malfunctions

- Leakage or free flow of air from second stage
 - Freeze-up
 - Regulator will freeze open
 - Purge button depressed/stuck
- Flooding 2nd stage
 - Mouth piece
 - Diaphragm
 - Exhaust valve

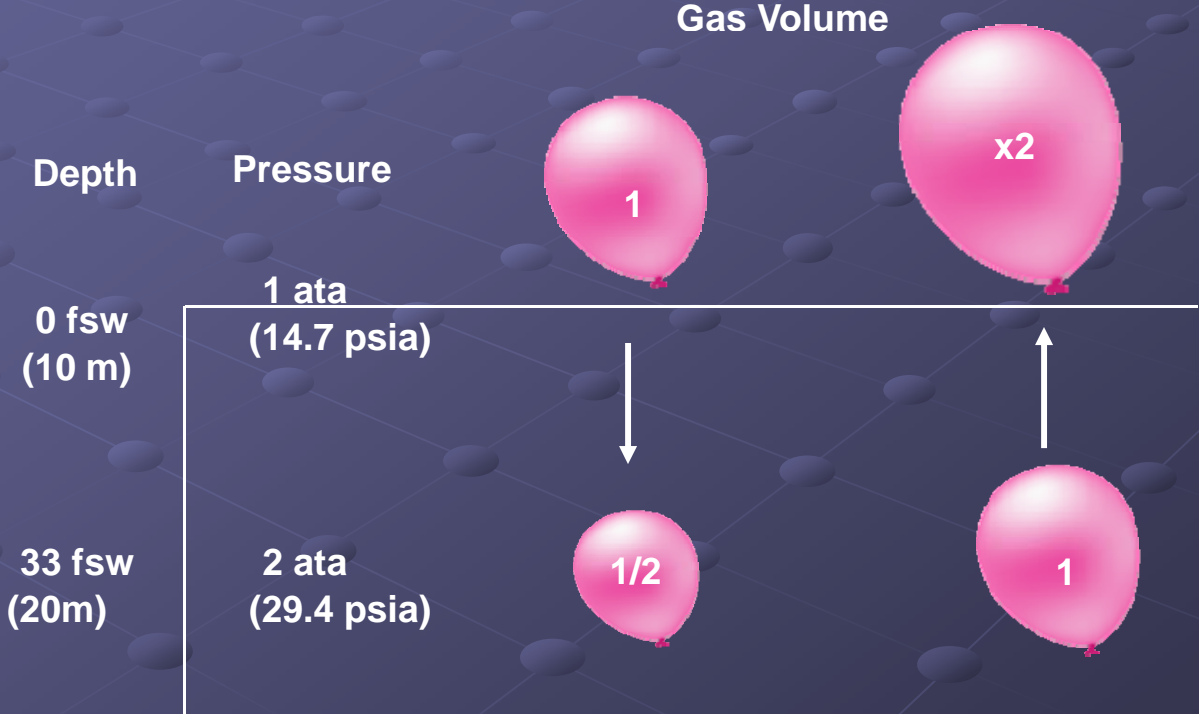




Direct Effects of Pressure

Boyles Law

"For any gas at a constant temperature, the volume of the gas will vary inversely with the pressure."



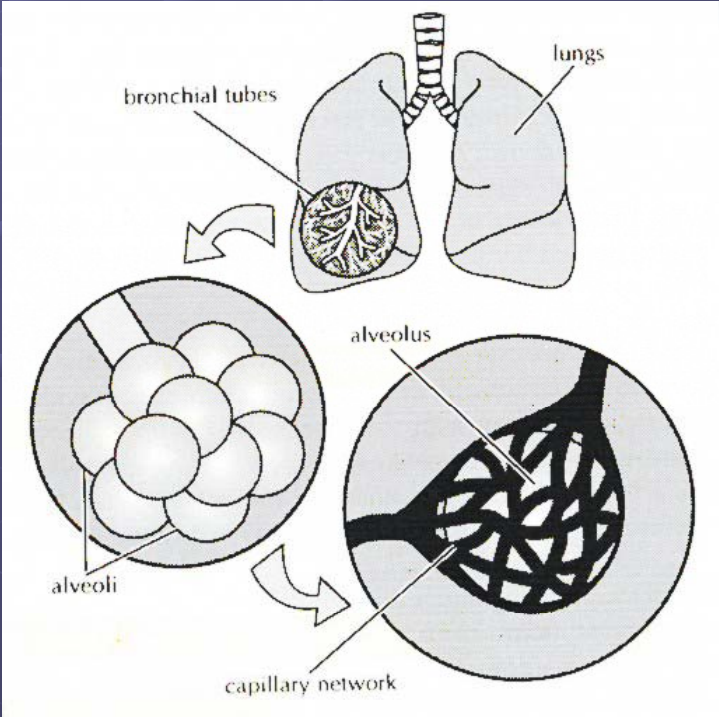
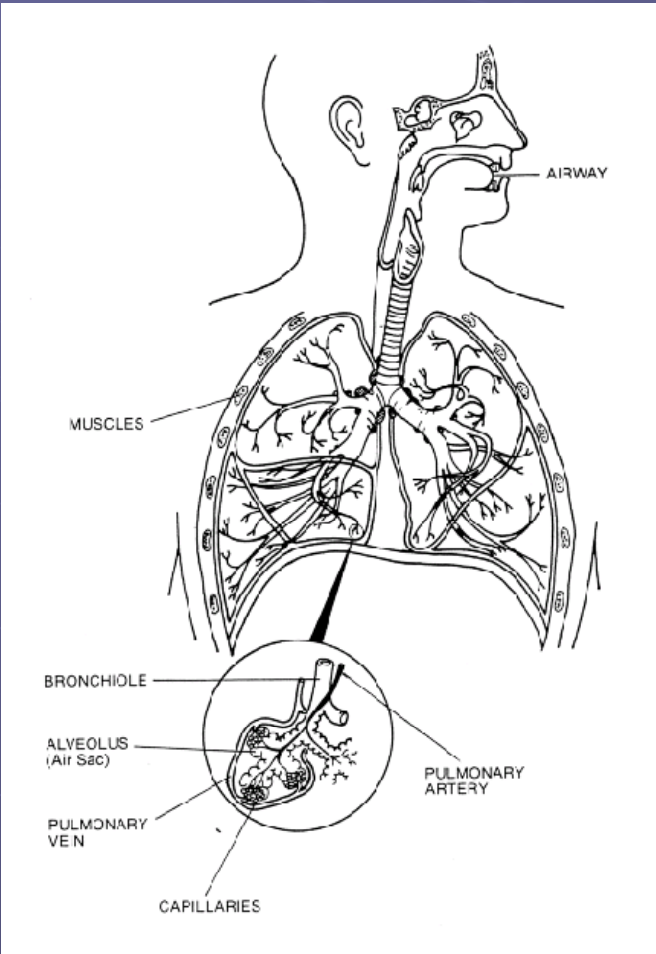
Boyles Law

- The following air filled spaces are affected by pressure and density changes:
 - sinuses
 - ears
 - mask
 - suit
 - lungs
- If the pressure in these air filled spaces is not equalized then a barotrauma injury may occur

Lung Expansion Injuries

- Normally caused by
 - Holding your breath
 - Inflammation and blockage of smaller bronchial passages
 - As a result of a chest cold, asthma, emphysema or bronchitis
- Can occur in as little as 1 meter of water

Lung Expansion Injuries



Lung Expansion Injuries

- There are four principal lung expansion injuries
 - Pneumothorax
 - Mediastinal Emphysema
 - Subcutaneous Emphysema
 - Arterial Gas Embolism (AGE)
- Signs & Symptoms occur immediately upon surfacing or shortly (within 15 min) after

Practical Exercises

Practical Exercise Objectives

- Demonstrate:
 - donning a flight suit with HUEBA equipment
 - preflight checks
 - deployment and operation of HUEBA equipment
 - Breathing actions including
 - Breathe u/w
 - Deploy and clear HUEBA while u/w
 - Deploy and clear HUEBA while inverted u/w

Preflight Checks and Donning



Photo: J Boone

Pre-Breather

- Unlimited air supply
- LV-2 second stage



Photo: J Boone

Pre-Breather

- Practice
 - Normal breathing pattern
 - Clearing 2nd stage
 - Purge method
 - Blast method



HUEBA Operation

- Practice
 - Deploying HUEBA
 - Normal breathing pattern
 - Deploying HUEBA u/w
 - Clearing 2nd stage
 - Purge method
 - Blast method
- Breathe HUEBA down while u/w



Photo: J Boone

Emergency Breathing System Inversion Chair (EBSIC)

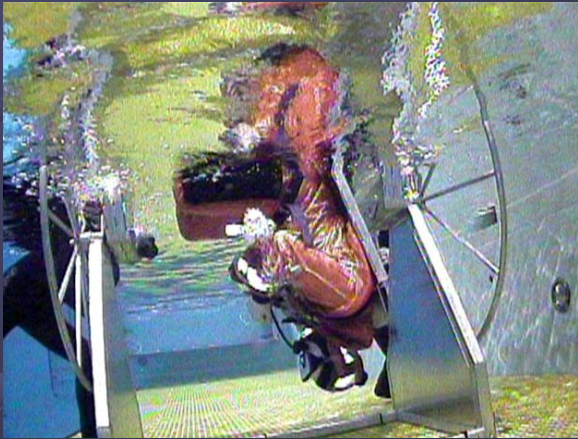
- Designed to provide a controlled way of inverting students
- 4 point harness
- Emergency release



EBSIC

- Practice

- Deploying HUEBA
- Normal breathing pattern while inverted
- Deploying HUEBA u/w while inverted
- Clearing 2nd stage u/w while inverted
 - Purge method
 - Blast method



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