

# Ongoing Research



The Lung function study.



All welcome!

Contribute to DAN research and make a difference in the diving community. We're inviting anyone who wants to participate to join us on 16 November at Miracle Waters.



## Fatality Database

In 1970 John McAniff of the National Underwater Accident Data Centre (NUADC), University of Rhode Island, began collecting information about recreational diving fatalities. DAN joined the collection process in 1989, working with McAniff until his retirement in 1995. DAN has continued to collect information on scuba diving fatalities involving US and Canadian divers (with the exception of commercial divers). While DAN is not the primary investigative agency for dive fatalities, the results of its data-collecting efforts are published in the DAN Annual Diving Report, which is available [online](#) to the public at no cost.

The process of data collection starts with notification by the dive buddy, eyewitness, friend and/or family member, dive shop or dive agency. DAN often receives notification from various law-enforcement and government agencies, including state and local police, sheriff and fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS), lifeguards, marine patrol, state park offices, district attorneys, US Coast Guard and medical examiners/coroners. In addition, DAN specialists search related Internet sites for information about diving-related fatalities.

The first notification is often incomplete and inaccurate, but it triggers a process in which DAN specialists contact the family and investigative agencies to try to obtain necessary information to compile a case report. A forensic pathologist who is also trained in dive medicine reviews all information obtained on each dive fatality case.

Fatality cases may take up to a year to close. Some cases may be closed as incomplete because of limited information due to local or state regulations, family

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requests or litigation. If DAN is notified that a case is in litigation, the case is closed, as the information is no longer available.

Completed cases are included in the DAN Annual Diving Report.