

Chris Lemons

Deep Sea Saturation Diver, Survivor & Keynote Speaker

Chris Lemons is a deep sea Saturation Diver who was involved in a catastrophic accident in 2012, which left him stranded 300 feet below the surface of the treacherous North Sea, with no light, heat or breathing gas for 35 minutes. His miraculous survival is the subject of the hit Netflix/BBC documentary 'Last Breath.'



Chris is available for public speaking engagements, where he can provide a very personal insight into this extraordinary story, as well as explore and explain the relatively unknown and claustrophobic world of Saturation Diving.

More about Chris Lemons:

Chris has been a commercial diver for over 14 years, and currently specialises in deep sea Saturation diving, operating almost exclusively in the Oil and Gas Industry.

This highly specialised form of diving involves living in the claustrophobic confines of a decompression chamber for up to 28 days at a time, commuting daily to the sea-bed in a diving bell, and working at depths of up to 900 feet for 6 hours at a time.

In September of 2012, a freak failure of the dynamic positioning system of the vessel he was working under, resulted in the umbilical which provides him with breathing gas, light and heat being severed completely. He was left on the sea-bed, in complete darkness 300 feet below the surface, with only the 5 minutes of breathing gas he carried in the emergency tanks on his back, and no way to protect himself from the freezing temperatures.

It took his heroic rescuers over 40 minutes to come back and fetch him, and his miraculous survival story has baffled experts ever since.

His extraordinary story was subsequently immortalised in the hit Netflix/BBC documentary 'Last Breath,' whilst Chris continues to dive to this day.

Chris was born in Edinburgh, raised in Cambridge, and now lives in the Scottish Highlands with his wife and daughter.

Chris Lemons talks about:

Chris is happy to tailor his address to align with your specific theme or requirements, which may include focusing on the safety aspect and lessons learned from the accident, the human and emotional elements involved, or a more generic oversight of the offshore and saturation diving world.

Chris can offer you an insight into the relatively unknown world of Saturation Diving, where those involved spend weeks on end confined to a compression chamber, whilst being lowered each day in a diving bell to the murky depths of the ocean floor to do their work.

He will also talk you through the lead up to that fateful day in 2012 and give you a very personal account of his thoughts and actions when he was left stranded 300 feet down in the icy darkness with no heat, no light and only 5 minutes of gas left to breathe, with his rescuers over 40 minutes away from being able to get to him.

Chris offers an acute, honest and emotional testimony of what goes through ones mind when seemingly counting down the minutes to death, and how surprising and revealing ones response to such a situation can be.

He also tentatively explores how staring death in the face can focus ones mind on life, as well as force you to contemplate the very finite nature of our time here on earth. Chris also discusses the practical and physiological reasons which may have contributed to his miraculous survival.

He moves beyond the miracle and communicates how teamwork, preparation, training, procedures, drills and practice played a huge role in his recovery and survival, and how the nature of how these are implemented can benefit your sphere of work or life.

Chris is also delighted to engage in question and answer sessions on any of the subjects related above.

Previous clients have included the Titan Summit in Toronto, HSBC, Shell UK, Exxon Mobil, BP, the Royal Society of Medicine in London, BioMarin, Tracerco, Deep Ocean and many others.

SPEAKING TOPICS

- Leadership
- Death
- Crisis management
- Procedures, Checklists and the importance of training and drills
- Risk
- Decision Making and Survival

Client testimonials

“ I’ve had the honour of hearing Chris’ story on several occasions now, each time with a fresh angle or nuance. Articulate, knowledgeable and surprisingly dispassionate (given his subject matter), he is able to spin a riveting yarn which will have the audience gripped. It’s an incredible story of survival, told with genuine flair by its humble protagonist in true edge-of-your-seat style. Hear him if you dare!

- *The Royal Society of Medicine, London*

“ Thank you so much for speaking to the Shell Energie network this week - it was a great presentation and we’ve had so many comments about it being the ‘event of the year’!

- *Shell UK*

“ In a challenging time period during the COVID-19 pandemic, DeepOcean wanted to bring in a key note speaker from our industry that had a fascinating story to tell, could draw parallels between their own experiences and the global pandemic lock-down and who could connect and resonate with our onshore and offshore communities. Boy did Chris deliver! His presentation was funny, engaging and deeply touching.

- *DeepOcean, Norway*

“ The most gripping and unique story I have ever heard, our audience was gobsmacked.

- *The Royal Geographical Society Singapore*

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