

18. Intro to Cave Diving Instructor

18.1 Introduction

The purpose of this program is to evaluate a candidate instructor with respect to the following criteria:

1. Level of knowledge, professionalism and proficiency in presenting a comprehensive TDI Intro to Cave Diver program
2. Proficiency in demonstrating the required land and water skills
3. Overall attitude toward safety, both for the instructor and student
4. Reduce the long-term environmental impact of scuba by the developing skilled, efficient and well educated divers
5. Possess a thorough knowledge of the TDI Standards and Procedures

18.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be authorized by TDI to teach and certify students in the following areas:

1. TDI Overhead Environment/ Cavern Diver course
2. TDI Intro to Cave Diver course

18.3 Who May Teach

This program may be conducted by the TDI Headquarters Training Staff and/or a senior instructor who has been approved by TDI Headquarters to evaluate instructor candidates

18.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

Overhead Environment Training

1. The maximum candidate to instructor trainer ratio is 3:1

18.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 21
2. Certified as an open water instructor in active teaching status with an internationally recognized scuba training agency for a minimum of 1 year
3. Have a minimum certification of TDI Cavern Instructor or equivalent with active teaching status
4. Provide proof of at least 150 full-cave dives
5. Provide proof of teaching a minimum of 3 cavern diver courses and assisting with a minimum of 1 complete TDI Introductory Cave Diver course with 1 active TDI Intro to Cave Instructor.
6. Provide recommendation from a TDI Intro to Cave Instructor with which the candidate has assisted in introductory cave training classes and stating that the candidate is prepared for the instructor evaluation program

18.6 Course Structure and Duration

Water Execution

1. TDI allows the instructor trainers to structure programs accordingly; adequate time to ensure comprehension and ability to perform skills required

Program Structure

1. Candidates must participate in a minimum of 2 TDI supervised introductory cave dives

Duration

1. Minimum time of 15 hours

Limits of Training

1. Minimum cylinder size: 22.2 litres / 160 cubic feet
2. Maximum penetration: 1/3 of the double cylinder volume
3. Minimum starting pressure 6 litres / 52 cubic ft. of volume
4. Maximum depth: 40 metres / 130 feet
5. Decompression allowed when required

18.7 Administrative Requirements

The following are the administrative tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the instructor candidates
2. Ensure that the instructor candidates have the required equipment
3. Communicate the training schedule to the instructor candidates
4. Have the instructor candidates:
 - a. Complete the *TDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk form*
 - b. Submit the *TDI Medical Statement* form signed by a licensed physician

Upon successful completion of the course the Instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate TDI certification by submitting the appropriate TDI Dive Leader Registration form to TDI Headquarters

18.8 Required Equipment

Required Reading:

1. *TDI Diving in Overhead Environments* Manual or eLearning course
2. *TDI Diving in Overhead Environments* Instructor Guide
3. *TDI Diving in Overhead Environments* Instructor Resource CD, optional

Suggested reading:

1. *NACD Art of Safe Cave Diving*
2. *Basic Cave Diving – A Blueprint for Survival*
3. *Caverns Measureless to Man* – Sheck Exley

Equipment Requirements

1. Primary cylinders, minimum volume size is 22.2 litres / 160 cubic feet, a manifold system recommended
2. Mask, low volume recommended
3. Fin straps taped or reversed if applicable
4. Appropriate cylinder harness and buoyancy compensator device (BCD) with automatic low pressure inflator
5. Two completely independent first and second stage regulators; one regulator having an approximately a 2 metre / 7 foot hose, one first stage regulator having a submersible pressure gauge and low pressure hose for buoyancy compensator device

6. Three battery powered lights consisting of:
 - a. A primary light with illumination sufficient for the environment and an expected burn time appropriate for the planned dive
 - b. Two back up lights, each having an expected burn time suitable for the planned dive
7. Exposure suit, adequate for the diving environment
8. Watch or bottom timer and a depth gauge; a dive computer may be used in place of one or both
9. Computer and/or submersible dive tables, both are recommended
10. Slate or wet notes and pencil
11. Small knife or other suitable line cutting device
12. Safety reel with a minimum of 37 metres / 125 feet of guideline
13. One primary cave diving reel with approximately 107 metres / 350 feet per team
14. Three directional line arrows
15. One non-directional marker

Note: The instructor candidate must be in full cave equipment configuration for all water activities.

18.9 Required Subject Areas

1. Decompression Theory and its Application to the Special Needs of Cave Diving
2. Gas Matching Procedures/Management
3. Accident Analysis
4. Psychological Considerations
5. Equipment Considerations
 - a. Cylinder options
 - b. Regulator options
 - c. Buoyancy compensator device/harness options
 - d. Reel options
 - e. Equipment configurations
6. Body Posture and Buoyancy Control
7. Communication
 - a. Hand signals
 - b. Light signals
 - c. Touch contact
8. Swimming Techniques

9. Review of Problem Solving
 - a. Accident analysis
 - b. Equipment failure scenarios
 - c. Buoyancy control
 - d. Line following
 - e. Propulsion techniques
10. Review of Dive Tables/Computers
11. Physiology
 - a. Breathing techniques
 - b. Stress management
12. Cave Environment/Conservation
13. Land Owner Relations
14. Local Access Requirements

18.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

The candidates are required to demonstrate the cave diver land/safety drills as described in the *TDI Diving in Overhead Environments Diver materials*. Candidates will teach and encourage cave manners and proper etiquette at all times.

1. Proper use of reels; primary, safety
2. Simulated situations/emergencies including:
 - a. Air sharing
 - b. Lost guideline
 - c. Lost diver
 - d. Line entanglement
 - e. Broken or cut guideline
 - f. Primary light failure
 - g. Valve-regulator failure
 - h. Fin and mask failures
3. Communication:
 - a. Light
 - b. Hand and touch
 - c. Use of line arrows and non-directional markers
4. Candidates are required to present a minimum of 2 lectures, 1 prepared and 1 impromptu, from the *TDI Diving in Overhead Environments Diver materials*

Candidate must be proficient with the following in-water skills during introductory cave dives. Candidates must proficiently demonstrate and conduct the student through a selection of the following:

1. Dive planning to include conservative decompression procedures and proper diver etiquette on all dives
2. Adequate pre-dive briefing, air supply and equipment matching, bubble check, air-sharing, and post-dive critique
3. Buoyancy control, body posture, and propulsion techniques
4. Communication with use of lights/hand signals
5. Air-sharing drill in:
 - a. Full visibility situation
 - b. A lights out, line following, touch contact drill, through a restriction using a single-file swimming method
6. Lost diver and lost line drills
7. Use of reels and guideline; circuits, traverses, jumps and gaps and emergency drills
8. Proper use and reading of line arrows and non-directional markers
9. Demonstrate proper stress identification and counter measures
10. Primary light failure drill, exit on back-up light

Note: All situation/emergency drills are to be conducted during the exit of all dives.

Note: A continuous guideline to open water must be maintained on all cave dives.

In addition to the above, the candidate must:

1. Complete the TDI Diving in Overhead Environments examination with a minimum score of 80 percent with 100 percent remediation
2. Complete all land drills and cave diving requirements safely and efficiently
3. Demonstrate mature, sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution
4. Maintain an appropriate level of awareness and respect for the cave environment
5. Receive the recommendation for certification by the training director

Note: An irresponsible or cavalier attitude is sufficient grounds to deny certification.

18.11 Renewal Requirements

1. Have certified at least 4 cavern or TDI Intro to Cave Divers
2. Taught a minimum of 2 complete courses
3. Logged a minimum of 15 non-training cave dives