

CAVERN DIVER

(Speciality Cavern Diver)

Intention of this course

This course offers adequate knowledge for cavern diving (cavern diver course) and very basic knowledge for cave diving. The risk can be minimized just through the combination of the right education together with the suitable and correct equipment, so that this risk can be calculated to make cavern diving an interesting diving sport.

Instruction by ProTec Speciality Cavern Instructor or Cave 1 Instructor.

Training environment

Just cave systems with the following characteristics are suitable as training environment:

An easy access able entry and exit (no rope techniques are necessary), large cave, no sumps or restrictions (on dive route); this means two divers can dive easily side by side or one above the other. The cavern area should be well known and good outlined. The complete diving area and the exit have to be good visible without any UW light and the exit should to be accessible in short time.

Prerequisites

- Advanced diving skills, which should be proved to the instructor
- Scuba Diver 2** certification.

Accomplishment

The instructor may adapt the course program according to the local conditions. Only the faultless accomplishment of one module of the course program permitted the advance to the next course module.

The instructor is required not to allow any inadmissibility concerning also the equipment.

Two independent regulators (on 2. tank valve) for safety.

Theoretical lessons

General Part

- Air supply, air planning
- Equipments – spare equipments - redundancy
- Buddy situation
- Cave diving in general
- The ProTec cave diving program.

Class 1

- The formation and the kinds of caves / cavern
- The weather and the possible effect on current & visibility.
- The diving plan at a rough air supply and decompression.

Class 2

- The movement in the cave
- To determine the danger (silt, current, narrow places).
- To move without whirling up the sediment (the ways of using fins)

Class 3

- Orientation and safely diving in the caves
- The use of reels (short overview)

Class 4

- Buoyancy control at buddy help (to search for stop points, to coordinate the movement).

Class 5

- UW – communication (light signals : OK, NOK / touch contact, numerical symbol)

Practical lessons

Equipment

Apart from/instead of the standard equipments the following are to be used/carried with:

- Two independent regulators (2nd tank valve)
- An octopus.
- A primary light
- Neoprene hood.
- Guidance line

The diver should be able to handle all the equipment items, the valves also, without any strange assistance.

Generally applies

- Penetrated depth 50 meter.
- No deco – dives.

Theory part for each UW practise module

- Planning: To discuss the way by sketches, air management, to specify the tasks and positions of each particularly diver, to check abort – emergency plan.
- Briefing: (shortly before the dive/in front of the place): To repeat the important points inclusively an equipment check.
- Debriefing: To recognize the mistakes and possibilities to improve, to revise them.

Quality requirements

- Best buoyancy: Sediment should not be whirled up and uncontrolled contact with environment should not be allowed.
- The divers should always completely control, the dive, without sign of stress or Nitrogen anaesthesia, so to act with self-assurance.
- The permission to the next difficult course module can just be given after the positive termination of the module before.
- After a negative result, the diver should be guided to the surface (Assi) or a break off should be made.
- At cavern dives never cause intentionally emergency situations (for example; to turn off cylinder valves). Just simulate.
- Never simulate an emergency situation without prior arrangement (briefing).

Module 1

- Maximum distance from entrance 10 meter.
- To check up all the skills

Module 2

- The Student dives simple tracks - to penetrate maximum 30 m in the cavern system.
(It can be related with module 1), to exercise reel techniques.

Module 3

- To master silt – out – situations. Behavior by poor visibility, loss of light.

Module 4

- To operate the own equipments by less visibility and solve the simulated problems.

Module 5

- Getting out with buddy breathing. Buddy & self- help

Module 6-7

- To apply the skills,
- To gather experience, carry out further dives,
- To explore the cavern area within the course level
- Max. covered diving tracks to the exit 50 meter

Plan all the dives, within the no-decompression time. Divide some exercises, if necessary, between several single dives. Do not penetrate too deep into cavern system (see max), it is better to repeat the same sections in both- directions to simulate longer penetration, so that the emergency exit remains “reachable”.

Courseware

Visit ProTec members area for any material / price list.



INSTRUCTOR MANUAL DIVING PROGRAM

- Checklist
- NSS Cave Diving Manual