



Cavern Instructor Program

- ▶ Welcome and Course Overview
- ▶ The TDI Instructor
- ▶ Dive Leader Risk Management
- ▶ Methods of Instruction
- ▶ Business Side of Diving
- ▶ Teaching the TDI Cavern Diver Program

The TDI Cavern Instructor Program is an introduction to the more involved Intro-to-Cave and Full Cave instructor ratings. If this is the first program an instructor is completing through TDI more time will need to be spent on the core topics listed below. Once an instructor has completed their initial TDI Cavern Instructor program, or any initial TDI Instructor program, they will need only to focus on the course specific content for future programs.

Objectives

The object of this program is to:

- Introduce the instructor to TDI
- Introduce the candidate to the TDI Instructor Guide and Student materials
- Demonstrate how to use the TDI Diving in Overhead Environment materials to train a new diver

- Teach the instructor “How to Conduct” the TDI Cavern Diver program
- Demonstrate how to register and certify a new Cavern diver

Prerequisites for TDI Cavern Instructor Program

See the current TDI Cavern Instructor standards for the prerequisites and requirements for this program.

Materials Required

Teaching any program with outdated materials is just asking for problems. The trainer must confirm that their materials are current and each instructor has the current materials with which to teach the program.

Instructor Trainer

- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Diver Manuals
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Knowledge Quests
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Instructor Guides
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment PowerPoint Presentation®
- TDI Instructor Trainer Manual

Instructor Candidate

- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Diver Manuals
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Diver Knowledge Quests
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment Instructor Guides
- TDI Diving in an Overhead Environment PowerPoint Presentation®



Note: Prior to beginning the program the instructor candidate should review all instructor and diver materials and complete all knowledge quests and final exams so they are completely familiar with the subject matter and the support materials to teach the TDI Cavern Diver program.

The topics to be covered are:

- Welcome and Course Orientation
- The TDI Instructor*
- Dive Leader Risk Management*
- Methods of Instruction*
- Business Side of Diving*
- Courses a TDI Cavern Instructor Can Teach

*Core Topics: These core topics will be found in Part One of this manual; IT Information.

Welcome and Course Overview

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Paperwork

- Instructor Registration Form
- Personal Information
- Liability Release
- Medical Statement



Let's Get to Know Each Other

Professional Staff

Participants

- Your name?
- What type of technical diving experience do you have?
- Which technical diving activities interest you the most?
- Why are you interested in becoming a technical instructor?

About This Program

Course Objective

- Develop the appropriate knowledge and skills that are expected of every dive professional

Subject Areas

- The TDI Instructor
- Dive Leader Risk Management
- Methods of Instruction
- Business Side of Diving

Structure and Schedule

- Independent Study
- Classroom Presentations
- Confined Water Training
- Open Water Training



Required Equipment

- Items you'll need for this course

Any Questions?

The TDI Instructor

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Refer to Instructor Trainer Manual Part 1 Instructor Training Process
Chapter 2-The SDI/TDI/ERDI Instructor

Dive Leader Risk Management

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Refer to Instructor Trainer Manual Part 1 Instructor Training Process
Chapter 3-Dive Leader Risk Management

Methods of Instruction

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Refer to Instructor Trainer Manual Part 1 Instructor Training Process
Chapter 4-Methods of Instruction



Business Side of Diving

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Refer to Instructor Trainer Manual Part 1 Instructor Training Process
Chapter 5-Business of Diving

Teaching the TDI Cavern Diver Program

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Program overview

- Classroom requirements
 - Students are required to become familiar with: risk and hazards of overhead environments, the inability to make a direct ascent to the surface when in an overhead environment, use of a reel as a navigational tool and use of artificial light. An Instructor must be able to demonstrate instructor level knowledge on all topics and skills in the current TDI Cavern Diver standards.
- Pool / confined water requirements
 - While a pool / confined water session is not required, an instructor may take this opportunity to conduct an update with divers who have been inactive for a period of time, or conduct a skill evaluation to help the students become better divers. This is the ideal setting to conduct buoyancy skills, trim and equipment configuration. If the depth of the pool/confined water permits, this is also a great setting to introduce and practice lift bag drills, line drills and blacked out or



no mask skills.

- Open Water Requirements

- Four dives with a minimum of 80 minutes of bottom time are required. If this program is conducted in conjunction with other allowed courses, the four dives plus the required number of dives from the other program are required. For the intro to cave dives it is best to take divers progressively deeper into the cavern so they get a slower introduction to overhead diving. The first couple of dives can be started on the outside of the cavern so divers get a sense of how the cavern is shaped and entry and exit points. This also allows an opportunity for the instructor to monitor the comfort level and abilities of the diver.

- Materials

- Review all diver materials to make sure the instructor candidate is familiar with all diver materials and how they are supported by the instructor materials.

- Diver Materials

- Online

- Printed

- Required paperwork

- Discuss in detail how the instructor should complete the required paperwork

- The instructor candidate must be familiar with all forms and be able to answer any question a diver may have regarding the completion of those forms

- Diver Training Folder

- Waiver

- Medical Questionnaire



- Complete a thorough review of the appropriate TDI Instructor manual including:
 - How to conduct:
 - Academic sessions
 - Cover helpful hints on how to teach more involved subjects
 - Pool/ Confined water sessions (if one is conducted)
 - Helpful hints on:
 - How to teach skills
 - Conducting an update / skill evaluation
 - Possible problems an instructor may experience
 - How to deal with those problems
 - Open water sessions
 - Helpful hints on:
 - How to conduct skills in open water vs pool/confined
 - Possible problems an instructor may experience in open water
 - How to deal with those problems

List of tips on how to teach various aspects of this program include:

Policy for cavern diving – many inland caverns are on private property and divers have access thanks to the good nature of the landowners. This privilege can be taken away if respect is not shown to the landowners. It is best to explain to candidates the proper etiquette when working with landowners so that future divers will continue to have access.

Equipment considerations – since this may be the first overhead course



for some divers, covering the additional equipment needed is very important such as: line cutting devices, more than one light and reels. Introducing this equipment and its value also prepares divers for the next step of intro to cave diving.

Communication – the basics of hand and light signals are pretty well known by divers so what needs to be covered are the signals unique to overhead diving. Divers who have never had any experience in silted out conditions or where there is no light will also need to be introduced to touch contact signals. Touch contact signals are best shown by blacking out the divers masks and having them communicate. This skill can be performed on land or in the water.

Swimming techniques – divers will all have a preferred kick style but most have never considered where the thrust from their fin goes or that the thrust could silt out or damage the environment they are in. Have divers swim either in a pool or basin using different kicks and see which works best for them.

Cavern environment – explaining how cave systems and caverns are formed is a very important and fun part of the course. Explaining that a majority of freshwater systems are a large network that makes up the drinking water of a given area is something very few people know.

Problem solving – this topic needs to be explained and practiced until it becomes second nature to the diver. The cavern course may be the first course that has taken the diver into an overhead environment and for the first time they will not be able to make a direct ascent to the surface or go back the same way they came in, in order to exit. Teaching the divers good air management and showing them how to use a reel will go a long way in problem solving underwater.

List of academic / pool-confined water / open water topics for candidate to present:

- History and formation of caverns and caves
- Cavern etiquette
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Cavern diving
- Cavern environment: geology, local access



Accident analysis

Scheduling Options for this program

Courses can be scheduled with a one to one ratio, as a group or scheduled in conjunction with other TDI courses. Each of these will require different time commitments and scheduling logistics. A course with one cavern diver will take less time than if combined with another TDI course with a group. The cavern course is also commonly taught as a prep course for intro to cave so enough time needs to be allotted for both courses.

Overview

The TDI Cavern Instructor program is comprised of classroom sessions and cavern dives. One day should be allotted for the academic session with three full days for the cavern dives.

If this program is taught with any of the other allowed instructor programs, two to three full days for the classroom should be scheduled and the appropriate amount of days for the cavern dives if two dives per day are scheduled. Since the instructor course requires a panel evaluation, ensure that other cavern evaluators or senior cavern instructors are available. There may be times when the course can be completed in less time but it is always good to allot an extra day or two for make-up time or weather.

Classroom

You will need various pieces of equipment normally used for cavern diving as well as some maps (if available) or drawings of the caverns that you may be diving. You can have the candidate conduct the research on the caverns and let them bring the information and present it. The instructor must be



able to demonstrate to instructor level quality all academic topics in the current TDI Cavern Diver standards.

Dives

Two days of diving should be scheduled if the program is taught by itself. If it is taught in conjunction with any of the other accepted TDI Instructor programs, additional days will need to be scheduled for the cavern dives considering two dives per day will be completed. It is always good practice to build in some extra time for dives so the instructor candidates can clear their schedule.

Knowledge Quest Review Questions if applicable

No instructor level Knowledge Quest is available for this program, although the candidate should complete the diver level Knowledge Quest so they are familiar with the information.

Final Exam

No instructor level final exam is available for this program, although the candidate should complete the diver level final exam so they are familiar with the information.



