



Stage Tank Handling course



Remark: This course will be run in Switzerland with at least 2 participants. It is fully integrated in the Cave Diver III course as well.

Training objectives

Stage Tank Diving is aimed at Advanced Open Water Divers and Cave Divers II who wish to learn the special techniques of rigging one or more stage tanks with the necessary hardware and regulators.

The Open Water Diver will primarily participate as a preparation for an Advanced Nitrox- or even Trimix Specialty course.

As already certified Cave Divers II are concerned, this course is intended to help develop the participant's skills and knowledge in extended penetration diving within the zone 2 with the use of such stage tanks.

For this course all stage tanks may be filled either with air or EANx (if students are properly certified as a Nitrox Diver) as required by the dive plan.

Note: *This course is prerequisite for the Cave Diver III (Full Cave Diver) course. As of this writing the stage handling course is integrated as a prep course in the Cave Diver III training.*

Kursdauer / Struktur

1 classroom theory block (approx. 2 hrs)

2 days of practical exercises in open water or in a cavern environment (3-4 dives)

Course program (content)

Concentration is on practical application and experience. Longer dive exposure, decompression, safety practices and procedures, advanced gas management, stage rigging (different configurations with 1 or more tanks), trim, streamlining and reduction of hydrodynamic drag, problem management, tank depots, stage tank exchange, task loading, and psychological aspects are covered.

A minimum of two hours of theory to include discussion of motives, equipment, procedures, technique, task loading and decompression is being performed during this course and also a minimum of four dives utilizing stage tanks in *various configurations* is to be performed.

It is not necessary to execute these training dives in the true cave environment, even for cave divers, because the focus is NOT on cave diving, but on stage handling techniques. If overhead environment is entered, it is strictly prohibited to enter overhead environment beyond the zone where a free ascent within a horizontal distance of max. 10m is guaranteed. This also gives a better visibility and control by the instructor.

The practical part of this course should be done over a period of not less than two (2) days and should not be extended over more than two (2) weekends.

Prerequisites

a) course admission

- 2* diver CMAS or equivalent
- Overhead: Cave Diver II SCD/CMAS or equivalent
- 50 logged dives
- valid medical attest for diving (\leq 1 year)
- minimum 18 years old

b) recommended specialty certificates

- Nitrox Diver CMAS or equivalent

c) entry-assessment

At the discretion of the course director to guarantee the requested entry-level.



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Equipment

a) in open water:

- complete set of standard sport diver equipment for cold waters (wet or dry)
- **1** double tank set consisting of 2 independent tanks of equal size *OR* 2 connected tanks (1 double tank set) with isolator valve.
Min. capacity **2800 bar*liter** (2x7L/200bar). 1 SPG per tank. **DIN** connectors only!
- **2** complete independent regulator sets with SPG
- **1** intermediate pressure hose as a longhose (**1.8-2.1m**)
- **2** independent lamps, of which 1 main lamp with 30-50W Halogen/12-18W HID, 1 backup-lamp with min. 4-5W Xenon.

b) in overhead environment:

Equipment according to requirements of the cave zone.

Certification

- Certificate of participation A4 (an official SCD certificate is under preparation)

Insurance

Is in the full responsibility of each participant.

Prices

Plse. refer to the annual course overview on the website of Swiss Cave Diving.

Course schedules

Schedule on agreement with participants; course will be run with at least 2 participants

Due to meteorological conditons it happens from time time that the practical part in Switzerland has to be postponed!

For all actual course schedules plse. refer to the annual course overview on the website of Swiss Cave Diving.

Further infos: www.swiss-cave-diving.ch or via Beat Müller: btmueller@bluewin.ch