

## BRIEFING OUTLINE

### DIVE SITE NAME

- Interesting facts or stories behind the name
- Specific characteristics above and below water

### DIVE SITE ORIENTATION

- Facilities (bathrooms, dressing rooms or lack of them)
- Set-up areas
- Prohibited areas
- Conservation (no littering, no insect repellents or sunscreens)

### ENTRY AND EXIT PROCEDURES

- Recommended techniques and places to enter and exit the water
- Reasons for recommended procedures

### DIVE DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES

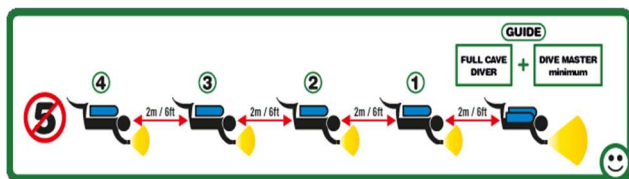
#### Before entering the water

- Map (if available)
- Layout - topography, depth, natural features, formations
- Conditions (current, visibility, temperature)
- Points of interest
- Maximum depth/time
- Safety stop
- Finning techniques
- Diver sequence
- Inform divers that, as a guide, you are not allowed to take pictures or videos during the cenote dive

#### In the water

- Bubble check
- In-water equipment check
- Buoyancy check
- Calculation of return limits

### BEHAVIOR AND SEQUENCE OF PARTICIPANTS



- 4 divers per guide maximum (depending on site and conditions)
- Divers form a single line behind the guide keeping close together (2m/6ft).
- Divers stay close to the guideline (no more than one arm's length away).
- No pulling on the guideline
- Establish sequence of divers

### COMMUNICATION

#### Light signals

Each diver must have a light that remains on during the entire dive



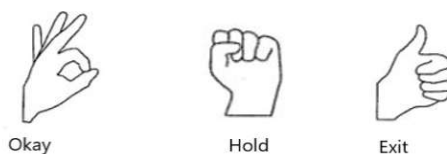
- **OK:** The OK signal is a command signal and **MUST** be responded to in the same manner as it is received
- **ATTENTION:** Slow up and down movement (explain how to get your attention)
- **EMERGENCY:** Fast back and forth movement (for emergencies such as an out of air situation).

When not using the light for signaling divers should keep the light in their hand avoiding any rapid movement

#### Hand signals

Command signals:

- Okay
- Hold
- Exit (call the dive)

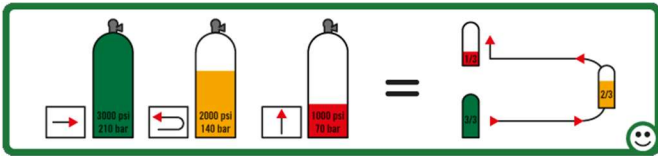


- These signals require the same response and should be repeated
- Explain to the divers that during a cenote dive an indisputable agreement is established within the group that any diver may call (abandon) the dive at any time and for any reason and all divers must exit
- In case a diver calls the dive the guide will confirm the signal and lead the group to the nearest surface/exit. The problem will be discussed/solved at the surface/exit

#### Other open water signs to review:

- Problem
- Low on gas
- Out of gas
- Turn around
- Cold
- Look

**GAS MANAGEMENT**



**Cavern diving uses the "rule of thirds."**

- 1/3 to enter
- 1/3 to exit
- 1/3 reserve to share or use in case of emergency

Explain how divers should get your attention to alert you when they have used their first 1/3 (reached 140 bar / 2,000 psi)

**Note:** Participants must have left the overhead and be in open water with no less than 60 bar / 900 psi of gas in an 11 liter cylinder

**BUOYANCY AND TRIM**



- Buoyancy control is the key to good and safe cenote diving
- Divers maintain a horizontal position at all times, preventing legs and fins from dropping and stirring up sediment from the floor
- Divers use frog kicks to push the water to the sides and not to the ceiling or floor

**NO RESTRICTIONS**



The lines in the caverns are set up so that there are no restrictions on the path and, at all times, there is room for at least two divers to dive side by side

**CAVERN LIMITS**

- Stay close to the guideline and maintain a visual reference to it at all times
- STOP - the stop signs mark the boundary of the cave area and should not be passed. Passing these signs takes you into the cave area, which is extremely dangerous without proper cave training and equipment

**GENERAL RULES TO BE FOLLOWED**



- No knives, gloves or snorkels
- Make sure no equipment is dangling
- Do not grab or pull on speleothems.
- Do not collect speleothems that are on the ground.
- Do not mark on speleothems, other rocks and formations or sediment.

**Final note to the participants:**

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**Leave the cenote  
as you found it.  
Take only memories  
with you, kill only  
time and leave  
nothing but  
bubbles!!**