

2.3.2 Technical Diver Level 2

2.3.2.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Technical Diver 2 course is designed to enhance deep diving proficiency while using helium breathing gases and oxygen-enriched decompression gases. Other course outcomes include: the use of multiple stages; the use of trimix with greater percentages of helium; use of hypoxic gas mixture protocols; gas management; oxygen management; extended decompression; accelerated, omitted, and general decompression strategies; dive planning; and management of multiple cylinders.

2.3.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Tech 2 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g., DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- c. Be physically and mentally fit.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be a certified GUE Technical Diver Level 1 diver.
- h. Have completed at least 25 non-training Tech 1 dives beyond GUE Technical Diver Level 1 certification.
- i. Have completed at least 50 non-training dives in a double tank configuration.

2.3.2.3 Course Content

The Technical Diver Level 2 course is normally conducted over six days. It requires a minimum of seven dives (including three trimix experience dives) and at least forty-eight hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.3.2.4 Technical Diver Level 2 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 250 ft/75 m
- c. Dives must not be planned to incur more than 60 minutes of unadjusted decompression time, as established by GUE's DecoPlanner.
- d. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 2 instructor.
- e. Standards for Tech 2 training in a cave environment:
 - i. Students participating in a Tech 2 course conducted in a cave environment must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified with 25 dives conducted at the Cave 2 level.
 - ii. Students must also be at least GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 2 - Normoxic Trimix certified with 25 dives conducted at that level.

- iii. Students passing a Tech 2 course conducted in a cave environment will be awarded a Cave Diver Level 2 - Hypoxic Trimix certification instead of a Technical Diver Level 2 certification.

2.3.2.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.3.2.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Advanced mixed gas diving including hypoxic protocols
- c. Risks of decompression diving
- d. Gas management during deep dives
- e. Accelerated, omitted, and general decompression strategies
- f. Deep diving logistics and planning

2.3.2.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Dive team order and protocols
- b. Gas switching procedures and protocols, including hypoxic protocol
- c. Back gas and stage regulators/valve failure modes and management
- d. Use of a bottom stage and multiple decompression stages (tank rotations)
- e. Unconscious diver recovery
- f. Decompression gas sharing

2.3.2.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency with proper ascents and descents, utilizing variable ascent rates and safe gas switching procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in the ability to plan Tech 2 dives while accounting for environmental conditions, available gas, and required decompression.
- j. Demonstrate clean and effective removal and exchange of multiple stage cylinders while hovering horizontally (tank rotations).
- k. Comfortably demonstrate at least three propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments; one of these kicks must be the backward kick.

- l. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- m. Demonstrate proficiency in gas failure procedures, including valve manipulation (fixable, non-fixable, and erroneous failures), gas sharing, and regulator switching as appropriate.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in managing gas-sharing scenarios, including gas sharing on the bottom, gas sharing during ascent, and sharing decompression gas.
- o. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management, while also managing multiple gas switches and other tasks such as tank rotation skills.
- p. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective underwater management of an unconscious diver.

2.3.2.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in Appendix A, plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. One primary and two backup lights
- c. Two decompression stages with stage regulators
- d. One bottom stage with stage regulator
- e. One primary reel per team
- f. One stage leash with a double-ender
- g. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (while breathing a helium mixture, if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

Appendix A - GUE Base Equipment Configuration

The GUE base equipment configuration is comprised of:

- a. Tanks/cylinders: Students may use a single tank/cylinder with a single- or dual-outlet valve. Students may also use dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet isolator manifold, which allows for the use of two first stages. Dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet, non-isolator manifold can be used, but only in recreational (no decompression) diving, and are considered an alternative for a single tank/cylinder. Consult course-specific standards and your instructor to verify size requirements.
- b. Regulators:
 - i. Single tank: The first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose. A backup second stage must be necklaced and supplied via a short hose. The first stage must also supply an analog pressure gauge, inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC), and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.
 - ii. Double tank: One first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose (7 ft/2 m hose is required for all cave classes), and inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC). The other first stage must supply a necklaced

backup second stage via a short hose, an analog pressure gauge, and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.

- c. Backplate system:
 - i. Is held to the diver by one continuous piece of webbing. This webbing is adjustable and uses a buckle to secure the system at the waist.
 - ii. A crotch strap is attached and looped through the waistband to prevent the system from riding up a diver's back.
 - iii. The continuous webbing must support five D-rings;
 - 1. The first placed at the left hip
 - 2. The second placed in line with a diver's right collarbone
 - 3. The third placed in line with the diver's left collarbone
 - 4. The fourth and fifth are placed on the front and back of the crotch strap when divers plan to use advanced equipment such as DPVs.
 - iv. The harness below the diver's arms has small restrictive bands to allow for the placement of backup lights. The webbing and system retains a minimalist approach.
- d. Buoyancy compensation device (BC):
 - i. A diver's BC is back-mounted and minimalist in nature.
 - ii. It is free of extraneous strings, tabs, or other material.
 - iii. There are no restrictive bands or restrictive elastic affixed to the buoyancy cell.
 - iv. Wing size and shape is appropriate to the cylinder size(s) employed for training.
- e. At least one time/depth measuring device
- f. Wrist-mounted compass
- g. Mask and fins: Mask is low-volume; fins are rigid, non-split.
- h. Backup mask
- i. At least one cutting device
- j. Wetnotes with pencils
- k. Surface marker buoy (SMB) with spool: when required, the SMB should be appropriate for environmental conditions and deployed using a spool with at least 100 ft/30 m of line.
- l. Exposure suit appropriate for the duration of exposure

Additional Course-Specific Equipment

- a. Where required, back gas and stage cylinders are marked in accordance with the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document and configured in line with GUE protocols.
- b. When drysuit inflation systems are applicable, they should be sized appropriately for the environment; small tanks are placed on the left side of the backplate with larger supplies affixed to the diver's left back gas tank.
- c. Underwater lights:
 - i. When required, backup lights should be powered by alkaline batteries (not rechargeable) and stowed on the D-rings at a diver's chest.
 - ii. Backup lights should have a minimal amount of protrusions and a single attachment at the rear.
 - iii. The primary light should consist of a rechargeable battery pack and be fitted with a Goodman-style light handle.

- iv. When burn time requirements create the need for an external battery pack, it should reside in a canister mounted on the diver's right hip.
- d. Guideline devices, as required during cave diving activities:
 - i. A primary reel is required for all cave diving and provides a minimalist form factor with a handle designed to support a Goodman or "hands free" handle operation. The primary reel must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - ii. A safety spool is required for each diver while cave diving and must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - iii. A jump or gap spool is required during Cave 2 diving and must contain at least 75 ft/23 m of line.