

To: Cave Diver Training Agencies

From: National Speleological Society-Cave Diving Section Training

Date: 28 April 2022

Subject: Lights Out / Zero Vis Drills

We are sending this memo to each of you in an attempt to better standardize and identify sections in our caves suitable for zero visibility/lights out drills. The need for this standardization is primarily to promote safety and cave conservation.

Background: Over the years in cooperation with landowners, both private and public as well as conservation groups we have tried to adhere to the wishes and directives of these groups to help ensure long lasting access to the caves on their properties.

The State of Florida has issued directives to us as to where we can conduct drills in the parks with caves that they both own and oversee. Various other landowners and conservation groups have issued directives suggesting and indeed requiring we adhere to specific areas where these type drills may be conducted.

Over the years we have expanded the list in such a way that we conduct drills in such places to cause minimal damage to the caves.

We are sending this list to you in the hopes that each agency will send this list to all of their cavern and cave instructors.

Cave Systems in North Central Florida

Little River from Table Rock out.

Devils' Eye/Ear cave system - from the "Keyhole" to the beginning of the Gallery and Catacombs.

Ginnie Ballroom is suitable for both drills.

Madison Blue: Martz jump out to the Godzilla room jump.

Peacock 3 - No sections are suitable for these drills.

Manatee - the first 300-400' of upstream Catfish Hotel.

Peacock 1 - Just before the beginning of the Peanut Tunnel, adjacent to "The Mistake" is suitable for a lost line drill. The entire Peanut Tunnel is suitable for zero vis/gas sharing.

Orange Grove Sink from the Grim Reaper sign and out is suitable for zero vis gas sharing, there is no other section in the entire system suitable for lost line.

Mexico Cave Systems

Ponderosa

River Run mainline up to change of direction arrows.

All jumps off River Run line up to the first 90-degree corner

Little Joe Line up to cenote Little Joe Cavern Line

Second Jump off little Joe Line back towards Cavern Line

Marked Jump Left from Cavern Line to Chapel Line – first 200m

Taj Mahal

Jumna River line

All Jumps off Jumna River line before the T

The Circuit Line towards the T

Cavern Line

Sagrado Line

Mangrovia Line

Chikin Ha
Cavern Line

Xtabay

Downstream line before Wizard's Den
Cavern zone

Chac Mol Kukulcan

Cavern Line

Chac Mol

Cavern Line
Downstream Cave Line
Upstream Cave Line

Aktun Ha (Carwash)

Upstream - Up to Luke's Hope
Room of Tears line up to the jump to Crystal Palace
Main downstream line on left – first 60m

Mayan Blue

A Tunnel
B Tunnel
Mayas Two line up to Hostage Hall jump
Dead Zone up to the depth change to the Halocline

Naharon

Mainline to first restriction
Double Domes line – first 100m

Calavera

Area between Ts at the end of the Canyons and Madonna passage, Hall of Giants up to the double arrows "fang" jump
No zero vis training in Madonna or canyons passage

Lost Line Drills-Mexico Caves

Ponderosa

River Run – First 100m/300' of cave line

Little Joe Line up to cenote Little Joe

Cavern Line

Mayan Blue

A Tunnel up to second jump to Death Arrow passage.

B Tunnel, beginning of permanent line

Dead Zone, beginning of permanent line on right side

Taj Mahal

Jumna River Line – Cavern Zone

Sagrado Line – first 100m/300ft

Mangrovia Line

Chac Mol

Downstream

Xtabay

Downstream line before Wizard's Den

Cavern Zone

Naharon

Cavern Zone

Florida Panhandle

Only Jackson Blue is suitable for these drills. Specifically on the west side of the cavern about 70 feet from where you drop down - go left and the location is about 100 feet from open water.

Twin Cave nor Hole in the Wall have no suitable places to conduct these drills

