



Confined Space

Awareness and Entry

Awareness and Entry - Confined Space

Overview

Many of our industry's activities DO NOT involve entries into confined spaces. However, there is a possibility that they may occur infrequently. This topic **REQUIRES EXTENSIVE PREPARATION** for entry, because the possibilities of death or serious injury are very real.

Employers are required to evaluate the workplace to identify all confined spaces that will require a permit. The employer will inform employees of the confined spaces and the dangers that they present. They will post warning signs and take measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit spaces.

Basic Elements

A permit-required confined space is a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

1. It has a configuration that IS NOT DESIGNED for continuous human occupancy. This includes internal structures like baffles, partitions, pipes, or other structures that would impair self-rescue. Examples include dust bins, cyclones, glue tanks, and other types of spaces.

2. It has or can develop an oxygen deficient atmosphere. This means that there isn't enough breathable air for persons to stay alive.
3. It has or can develop a TOXIC atmosphere that is hazardous to breathe. Gas or vapor contaminants such as Hydrogen Sulfide (rotting organic matter), Carbon Monoxide (unburned fuels), supplies of natural gas or chemical lines connected to the space, OR unused process chemicals remaining in the confined space can all result in a toxic atmosphere.
4. It has been or can be engulfed (flooded) with material that can trap an individual, such as wood chips, water, etc. that can surround a person while they're in a storage vessel.

Confined Space Program

Each employer should have a permit-required confined space program that is designed to prevent accidents. Each permit-required confined space is marked with signs or other warnings. A designated entry supervisor will determine if acceptable conditions are present to enter a confined space. He will decide if the permit will be issued.



A company will place signs on confined spaces when they have been evaluated to be hazardous. The space may be deficient of atmosphere, or have a possibility of being engulfed by water, wood chips, grains or other materials. The space may not be intended for continuous human occupancy or have vapors from residual chemicals.

Entrance into a Confined Space

Before entering a confined space that requires a permit a person must:

- ▲ Receive training from the employer.
- ▲ Be aware of the mode, signs, symptoms and consequences of being exposed in the space.
- ▲ Know what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed and how to properly use the equipment.
- ▲ Know how to summon rescue and emergency services.
- ▲ Understand the duties of the attendant and how to communicate with the attendant. Never enter a confined space alone.

SAFETY TRAINING SIGN-IN SHEET



Proper personal protective equipment must be used when working in a confined space. Workers may need to use breathing apparatus or protective clothing. A second employee should remain outside the confined space as an attendant. The attendant communicates with the employee who has entered the confined space and is ready to act in case of an emergency. The attendant will be ready to call for emergency backup and rescue.

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject: Confined Space Awareness and Entry

The following employees participated in this training. Sign and print your name.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Confined Space Permit

Everyone involved in a permit-required confined space entry needs to be able to recognize the hazards involved and strictly follow the facilities confined space program. The hazards may involve:

- ▲ Atmospheric conditions
- ▲ Engulfment
- ▲ Configuration
- ▲ Any other recognized serious safety or health hazard

A written entry permit helps the team make sure that the space is evaluated, the hazards are eliminated and all equipment is available before anyone enters the space. The written entry permit must include:

- ▲ Identification of the space.
- ▲ Purpose of the entry.
- ▲ Date and duration of the permit.
- ▲ Names of the authorized entrants.
- ▲ Names of the current attendants and the entry supervisor.

- ▲ Hazards in the permit space.
- ▲ Measures to isolate the permit space and eliminate or control the hazards.
- ▲ Acceptable entry conditions.
- ▲ The results of atmospheric and any other tests, initiated by the person(s) performing the tests.
- ▲ Rescue and emergency services available and the means to summon them.
- ▲ Required equipment (such as ventilation, respirators, retrieval systems, etc.).
- ▲ Additional permits (such as for hot work).

Be Safe

If you are working around or with confined space permits, and you have a situation that you don't understand, ask your supervisor. Better to ask a question than to have an accident.

QUIZ

True or False

1. Confined space entry is very hazardous and requires special training and a permit to enter. T or F
2. A toxic atmosphere may be present in a confined space. T or F
3. All confined spaces are configured the same and should be treated the same. T or F
4. You can pick up a confined entry permit at any local hardware store. T or F
5. The confined space entry permit will indicate if you need any other additional permits. T or F

1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. F, 5. T