



Confined Spaces

Many construction sites have enclosed areas where work is done. Confined space entry presents a number of potential hazards. These areas can create hazards such as lack of oxygen, explosive or toxic gases, electrical shock and materials falling from above. A confined space is any enclosed space where there is a risk of death or serious injury from hazardous substances or dangerous conditions (e.g., lack of oxygen). Some are easy to identify (storage tanks, silos, enclosed drains, sewers, etc). Others are less obvious, but equally dangerous (open-topped chambers, vats, furnace combustion chambers, ductwork, and unventilated or poorly ventilated rooms).

THE DANGERS

- Lack of oxygen, poisonous gas, fumes or vapors.
- The unexpected rush of liquids, gases or solids into a space could cause fire and or explosions.
- Poor communication systems may delay rescue.
- Extreme heat leading to dangerous increases in body temperature.

SAFETY TIPS

- Ensure that the appropriate PPE, Rescue Retrieval Equipment and Communications Equipment are available and in good working condition.
- Lockout/Tagout any hazardous energy that the entrant could be exposed to.
- Ensure the entrance is large enough for rescue workers to quickly access a worker in need.
- Harness workers to lifelines running to the outside of the space.
- Provide sufficient general ventilation to guarantee fresh air.
- Use non-sparking tools and specially protected lighting where flammable or potentially explosive atmospheres are likely.
- Exit the space immediately if an unsafe condition develops.

HOW THIS TOPIC APPLIES TO THIS JOB:

ATTENDEES: Print Name / Signature

DATE:

SUPERVISOR / FOREMAN SIGNATURE:

JOBSITE / PROJECT#:
