

CONFINED SPACE

OVERVIEW

CONFINED SPACES

- Is large enough and shaped in a way that allows an employee to enter and perform assigned work. It's also a space that has limited or restricted means for getting in or out and is not designed for continuous occupancy.
- Examples: Tanks, storage bins, vessels, silos, hoppers, vaults and pits.

PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE

- **Has or has the potential for one or more of the hazards:**
- **Hazardous atmosphere**
 - **Levels of flammable gas, vapor and mist**
 - **Airborne combustible dust**
 - **Oxygen- below 19.5% or above 23.5%**
- **Engulfment potential**
- **Entrapping design**

PROTECTION AGAINST HAZARDS

- **Post signs or other warnings**
- **Use barriers**
- **Use a written space entry program**
- **Conduct air monitoring to I.D. hazards**
- **State conditions that will make the space acceptable to enter and verify that those conditions will be maintained**
- **Flush and ventilate to eliminate or control the spaces atmospheric hazards**

THE PERMIT IDENTIFIES:

- The space to be entered
- Names of workers authorized to enter the space, attendant and entry supervisor
- Hazards of the permit space
 - results of initial and periodic tests
 - measures used to isolate the space
- Acceptable entry conditions
- Equipment to be used in the space
 - PPE, lighting, ventilating, rescue, etc..
- Rescue and emergency services / phone numbers
- Additional permits, i.e. hot work

KEY EMPLOYEES

- **Authorized entrants** - are assigned and trained to work in a permit space
- **Attendants** - are stationed outside the space to maintain contact with and monitor authorized entrants
- **Entry supervisors** - determine if conditions are acceptable for permit space entry, authorize the entry, oversee and stop work

SAFETY TRAINING

- Authorized entrants, attendants, and supervisors must “acquire the understanding, knowledge, and skill necessary for the safe performance of the duties assigned”
- Must be trained when assigned to confined space duties, when new hazards appear, or there’s reason to believe that they aren’t following procedures

AUTHORIZED ENTRANTS

- Can enter a permit space only after it's tested and found safe for entry.
- Must know:
 - potential hazards
 - signs and symptoms - space no longer safe
 - PPE required
 - equipment to use and how to use it

ATTENDANTS

- Responsible for:
 - maintaining an accurate count of who's in the space, monitoring activities inside and outside the space, staying in touch with authorized entrants
 - keeping unauthorized persons out
 - ordering evacuation if attendant duties can't be performed safely
 - summoning authorized rescue and emergency services

ENTRY SUPERVISOR

- Must make sure permit requirements are completed before signing the permit and allowing entry
- Familiar with the space's hazards
- Terminating the entry and canceling the permit when the task is completed or conditions arise that are not safe

PERMIT - REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE:

- **Hazardous Atmosphere**
- **Engulfment Potential**
- **Entrapping Design**

PERMIT SPACE TASKS ARE PERFORMED BY:

- Authorized Entrants
- Attendants
- Entry Supervisors
- Confined spaces are hazardous, leave the space immediately if you have any hint of problems. If you feel tired, dizzy, nauseous, have trouble breathing or any possible symptom of danger-get out!