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!