

Confined Spaces

Employee Safety

Employees face several hazards while working in confined spaces. For this kind of work, it's essential to have safety and rescue plans in place.

Safety Rules

- Report accidents and injuries in writing to your supervisor before the end of your work shift.
- Report damage or maintenance needs in writing immediately.
- Employees must wear seat belts while driving or riding in vehicles and equipment on the job.
- Never enter a confined space unless trained and authorized.
- Confined space entry begins as soon as any part of the employee's body enters the place of the opening.
- All employees on a confined space job site must be trained to recognize hazards and prevent accidents.
- A written confined space permit must be present near the entry point.
- A written rescue plan must be available for confined space entries.
- Confined space personnel must be in continuous communication during confined space entry.
- Atmosphere monitoring must be performed before and during confined space entries.
- Confined space atmosphere monitoring devices must monitor oxygen levels, flammables and toxics.
- Ventilate all spaces with fresh air before and during confined space entries.
- Employees that are part of the rescue team must be trained in CPR and First Aid.
- Employees must be protected from falling into confined spaces.
- Employees using integrated ladders or portable ladders must be protected by a personal fall arrest system.
- Employees working higher than four feet or six feet in the construction industry must be protected from falls.
- Machines or tools that emit carbon monoxide must not be used in confined spaces.
- When the atmosphere degrades to less than 19.5 percent oxygen content, exit the space immediately.
- Lock and tag mechanical and electrical hazards when performing maintenance in a confined space.
- Do not smoke in confined spaces.

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