For Job Health and Safety on Confined Space Entry

What to do today to protect worker health and prevent health hazards

**What are the hazards?**
- Oxygen Deficient (due to oxygen consumption from natural or chemical processes or displacement by nitrogen, carbon dioxide. Etc.), or Enriched Atmospheres, and/or Toxic Atmospheres.
- Flammable or Combustible Atmospheres.
- Physical Hazards - entrapment, engulfment, falls, slips, obstructions, thermal, electricity.

**How do I know if there are hazards?**
- Test conditions prior to entry and during the course of entry to assure acceptable entry conditions are being maintained.
- Review the current and previous content and materials of construction of the confined space.
- Know whether what you are doing introduces a hazard – such as using solvents, applying coatings, painting, abrasive blasting, welding, or cutting.
- Monitor what others are doing within or near the permit-space.
- Visually assess hazards and monitor air for oxygen, combustible and toxic atmospheres.

**Why should I care?**
- Workers may be injured or die in confined spaces (% of those who die in confined spaces are would be rescuers).
- Failure to protect workers can result in injury or death as well as increase Worker’s Compensation costs, result in OSHA citations and fines, civil litigation, and potentially criminal sanctions.

**What do I need to do?**

**When do I need to do it?**
- Before personnel:
  - enter confined spaces;
  - attempt to perform rescue;
  - must use personal protective equipment; or
  - perform specialty rescue.
- As program is developed
- Prior to entry into confined spaces

**Training**
- Permit-Required Confined Space entrants, attendants and Entry Supervisors
- Permit- Required Confined Space Entry Rescuers
- Personal Protective Equipment including respiratory protection
- Other training such as for high angle rescues may be necessary depending on job conditions
• Initial evaluation to identify and label confined spaces.
• Pre-entry inspections and hazard assessments
• Equipment inspections including air monitoring equipment calibrations or checks

Prior to use

• Written Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Program
• Training documentation
• Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Permits

When Confined spaces are identified and prior to entry,
As training is provided and competency is determined,
When permits are terminated

Annually

• Prior to entry

Prior to use

Inspections

Records

Determine if control methods such as elimination, engineering controls or use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required.

• Determine whether entry is truly necessary
• Determine whether removal, isolation, shielding, ventilation or other hazard control techniques can be used,
• Chemical Protection – Respirators, clothing, gloves, boots,
• Physical protection – hard hats, eye and foot protection
• Fall protection and retrieval equipment

• Developing programs and training
• When not experienced dealing with confined space hazards
• When Entry Rescue is required

When do I need more help?

Where can I get help?

• Contact AIHA’s Confined Space Committee: www.aiha.org
• OSHA’s On-Site Consultation Service: http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html

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