



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

Developed by the OSHA and AIHA Alliance

# QuickTips

## 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 (60% 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?

#### 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

- 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

<b>Inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial evaluation to identify and label confined spaces.</li> <li>• Pre-entry inspections and hazard assessments</li> <li>• Equipment inspections including air monitoring equipment calibrations or checks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to use</li> </ul>
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Program</li> <li>• Training documentation</li> <li>• Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Permits</li> <li>• Documentation of annual program assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Confined spaces are identified and prior to entry,</li> <li>• As training is provided and competency is determined,</li> <li>• When permits are terminated</li> <li>• Annually</li> </ul>
<b>Determine if control methods such as elimination, engineering controls or use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine whether entry is truly necessary</li> <li>• Determine whether removal, isolation, shielding, ventilation or other hazard control techniques can be used,</li> <li>• Chemical Protection – Respirators, clothing, gloves, boots,</li> <li>• Physical protection – hard hats , eye and foot protection</li> <li>• Fall protection and retrieval equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to entry</li> <li>• Developing programs and training</li> <li>• When not experienced dealing with confined space hazards</li> <li>• When Entry Rescue is required</li> </ul>

**When do I need more help?**

**Where can I get help?**

- Contact AIHA’s Confined Space Committee: [www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)
- OSHA’s On-Site Consultation Service: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html>
- OSHA’s Confined Space Safety and Health Topics Page: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/index.htm>

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