



Introduction

A confined space is a space that is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter and perform work, has limited or restricted means of entry or exit and is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

When a confined space contains the potential to contain an atmospheric hazard, an engulfment hazard, has an internal configuration that may trap an entrant, or contains any other recognized safety or health hazards, the space becomes a permit-required confined space.

Hazards Associated with Confined Spaces

Confined spaces are capable of containing a number of hazards that may include lack or abundance of oxygen, presence of hazardous gases, heat or cold, mechanical hazards, flammable materials or even poor access for emergency response. These hazards should be identified prior to entry.

Any time a hazardous gas' limit is exceeded, all personnel shall immediately exit the confined space, and no others shall enter until atmospheric conditions are returned to safe levels.



Protecting Workers in Confined Spaces

- Air monitoring should be performed before entering into any confined space to check for dangerous conditions. This air monitoring should be performed at the top, middle and bottom of the confined space.
- Workers should be made aware of the associated hazards of the confined space and should be trained of the dangers they could encounter.
- Safe entry and exit procedures should be learned and practiced.
- Entrants (worker who enters the confined space) should remain in constant communication with the attendant (worker responsible for monitoring the entrant).