

## SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Job No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date Held \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of Meeting                      **CONFINED SPACE HAZARDS**                     

On certain projects, commercial and even residential employees will have to enter confined spaces. **Areas that are large enough to enter and perform work, but which have limited entry and are not designed for humans to occupy. They include tanks, silos or other areas with these features. If a hazard is present, special precautions must be observed.**

Hazards that exist outside a confined space may also be found inside one. These same hazards, when encountered in a confined space, are usually more dangerous. When hazards exist in a confined space a permit is required before an entry may be made. The size, shape and difficulty of leaving the space increase the severity of confined space hazards. Special attention should be given to the following hazards.

### HAZARDOUS ENERGY

Moving parts, electrical contracts, temperature extremes and chemicals can often be found in a confined space. Contacting or touching the energy sources can be deadly. Before entry, the confined space should be isolated from all I sources of hazardous energy. Where possible:

- Lockout electrical sources
- Blank off or disconnect pneumatic and hydraulic lines.
- Disconnect belts, chains, drive shafts, etc.
- Secure moving parts with chains, latches, etc.
- Purge and/or clean the area of chemical residues (steam, water rinses, etc.).
- Allow the space to cool down or warm up to a comfortable temperature.
- Wear the appropriate protective equipment.

### ENTRY AND EXIT

Entry and exit directly affects the degree of hazard in a confined space. The appropriate rescue equipment must be available BEFORE you enter a permit required confined space. The type of confined space, the access to the exit, number and size of openings, barriers inside the space, the occupancy load and the time required to exit or rescue injured workers in an emergency should all be considered, as well as the work being performed.

### NOISE AND COMMUNICATION

If you are an entrant, your positioning may make it difficult to communicate with the worker monitoring the space (attendant). Communication between you and the attendant must always be maintained. You may need to use two-way communication devices if you cannot see and hear the attendant while working in a confined space. Working with power tools generates a lot of noise. This increased noise may echo in a confined space, making communications even more difficult. The noise levels may require the use of hearing protection. When required, your supervisor should make sure that hearing protection is worn as needed and that a system of communication is established with the attendant.

## ENGULFMENT

In most cases, construction workers will not be entering a confined space until it has been emptied of its contents. However, you should be aware that sand, grain, coal and other loose material are often stored in confined spaces. Even when the space has been emptied for the work you are performing, it could be accidentally refilled if precautions are not taken. These feeders or supply lines must be completely locked out or blocked before any work can be performed in the space. If the area has not been emptied, do not enter the area or walk on top of loose material.

## STRUCTURAL HAZARDS

Some confined spaces have exposed edges on which you could be injured. Slick surfaces can increase your risk of falling. If scaffolding or ladders are used, the risk of injury from falls increases. Falling objects, such as objects dropped by a worker on a ladder or loose material from above (inside or outside of the space), can also add to the hazards. Proper precautions should be followed and protective equipment should be worn to prevent falls, bumps, cuts and abrasions.