

### HANDOUT # 1

## HAZARDS OF CONFINED SPACES



“Confined spaces” include tanks, vessels, crawl spaces, pipes, underground areas, and any other areas that are hard to get into and out of and are not meant to be occupied by humans. Working in confined spaces can be extremely dangerous.

### Hazards may include:

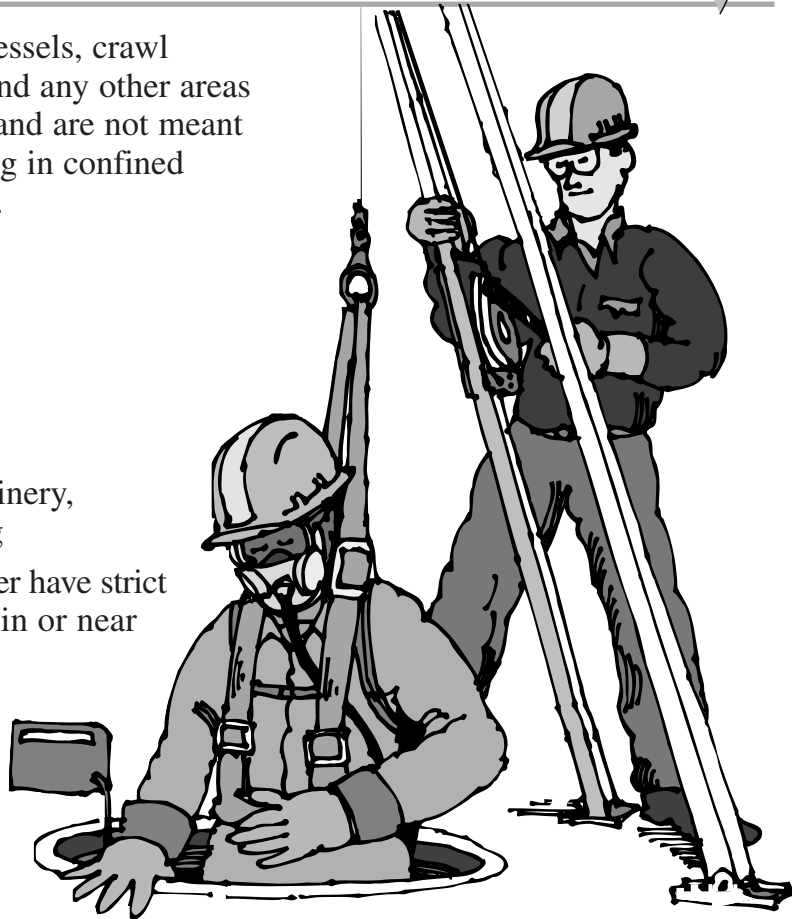
- ▲ Not enough oxygen
- ▲ Fire or explosion
- ▲ Toxic gases or other materials
- ▲ Physical hazards: moving machinery, live wires, noise, heat, or falling

That’s why OSHA and your employer have strict rules to protect you when working in or near confined spaces.

### Protect Yourself!

When it comes to confined spaces, remember these safety rules:

1. Understand and follow your employer’s procedures regarding “permit-required” confined spaces.
2. Never work in a permit-required confined space unless the company tells you it’s safe to do so or gives you proper training and protective equipment.
3. Never try to rescue anyone from a confined space unless you’ve been properly trained and equipped. Over half of confined-space deaths result from improperly trying to rescue someone else!





### HANDOUT # 2

## UNDERSTAND THE ENTRY PERMIT PROGRAM FOR CONFINED SPACES

Under OSHA's confined space rules, your company must:



- ▲ Identify confined spaces with the potential for a serious safety or health hazard
- ▲ Test confined spaces for oxygen levels, or toxic or combustible substances
- ▲ Allow employees (or their representatives) to observe testing of confined spaces and be informed of the results
- ▲ Use written permits to authorize work in hazardous confined spaces
- ▲ Post warning signs near hazardous confined spaces
- ▲ Provide all necessary protective and rescue equipment
- ▲ Assign a trained Entry Supervisor to authorize employees to work in hazardous confined spaces
- ▲ Assign a trained Attendant to monitor the work and call for help if needed
- ▲ Create and train a Rescue Team for emergencies

**You are required to know the roles of different employees working in or near confined spaces:**

- ▲ **Authorized Entrants**, who have been specially trained, are the only employees who can work in confined spaces.
- ▲ An **Entry Supervisor** authorizes employees to work in hazardous confined spaces.
- ▲ A trained **Attendant** monitors the work and calls for help if needed.
- ▲ Members of the **Rescue Team** are the only ones authorized to respond in an emergency.

### **Remember...**

Whether you're actually working in a confined space or simply working nearby—**Confined Spaces Are Extremely Dangerous, so Expect the Unexpected!**