

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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No. 12

Week of 03/22/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

CONFINED SPACES

Working in confined spaces requires special planning and precautions due to the dangerous nature of the environment. A confined space is a space which has any of the following characteristics: 1) it has limited openings for entry and exit, 2) it has unfavorable natural ventilation, or 3) it is not designed for continuous worker occupancy. You may be in a confined space if you construct or work in a boiler, pipeline, process vessel, septic tank, sewer, silo, utility vault, manhole, or other similar location.

One of the hazards involved in entering and working in confined spaces is the presence of hazardous atmospheres. Lack of natural air movement can produce three types of problems: an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, a flammable atmosphere, or a toxic atmosphere. An oxygen-deficient atmosphere has less than 19.5% available oxygen (note that too much oxygen can also be hazardous; the oxygen content cannot exceed 23.5%). The presence of oxygen, and a flammable gas, vapor, or dust in the proper mixture will make an atmosphere flammable. A toxic atmosphere may be created by substances stored in the space or by work being performed in the space; toxic substances may also enter the space from adjacent areas. Test the air in the space to ensure that it is safe. Never trust your senses to determine if the air in a confined space is safe! If necessary, ventilate the confined space with a blower or fan to remove gases or vapors. In most cases continuous ventilation will be needed. Depending on the nature of the confined space, regular testing or continuous monitoring of the atmosphere may be required.

Don't forget that there are other potential hazards which you may need to address. Lock out electrical sources. Blank and bleed pneumatic and hydraulic lines. Disconnect belt and chain drives, and mechanical linkages on shaft-driven equipment. Secure mechanical moving parts within confined spaces with latches, chains, chocks, blocks, or other devices.

Don't forget that a standby person should be assigned to remain outside and be in contact with the workers inside. The standby person should know what to do in case of an emergency.

As you can see, confined space work requires good planning and proper precautions. Be familiar with the hazards you are exposed to and the precautions to take to stay safe and healthy. For more information on confined spaces see OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.146 and 1926.21(b)(6).

SAFETY REMINDER

**Only fools rush in!
An unplanned rescue may
very well be your last.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____