

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 23

No. 38

Week of 9/19/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

CONFINED SPACES

A confined space is any space which has limited openings for workers to enter and exit, and either has an oxygen-deficient atmosphere or could accumulate toxic or flammable contaminants. Some examples of confined spaces are reactor vessels, tanks, silos, boilers, sewers, manholes, digesters, and pipelines. Are there any confined spaces on this site?

Confined spaces are even more dangerous when they:

- contain or have the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- contain a material that could engulf a worker;
- are shaped such that a worker could be trapped or asphyxiated by converging walls, or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a small cross-section; or
- contain any recognized, serious, safety or health hazard.

Because air may not move in and out of confined spaces freely, the atmosphere inside a confined space can be very different from the atmosphere outside. This can result in an oxygen-deficient, flammable, or toxic atmosphere. Any atmosphere with less than 19.5% oxygen must not be entered without an approved self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The oxygen level in a confined space can decrease quickly because of work being done, such as welding, cutting, or brazing; or, it can be decreased by certain chemical reactions. The combination of oxygen in the air plus a flammable gas, vapor, or dust can make an atmosphere flammable. Toxic substances can come from a product stored in the space, work being performed in the space, and from materials or gases in areas near the space.

Do not enter a confined space until every hazard has been considered and the space has been determined to be safe. Has a competent person tested the oxygen content of the space? Is the oxygen level at least 19.5% but not more than 23.5%? Will the atmosphere be monitored while work is going on? Has the space been ventilated before entry? Has the space been isolated from other systems? Has electrical equipment been locked out? Has mechanical equipment been blocked, chocked, and disengaged where necessary? Is special clothing required? Is respiratory protection required? Will there be a standby person on the outside? Do you know what to do if there is an emergency? How will the workers inside the space communicate with the workers outside? For more information on confined spaces see 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(6) and 1910.146.

Confined space work is dangerous but injuries and deaths can be avoided if you understand the risks and work carefully!

Lockout/tagout is a rule to "live" by.

SAFETY REMINDER

Make sure that you follow all lockout/tagout procedures, especially in confined spaces.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____