

Toolbox Talks 2

015: Confined Entry Permit: What It Means When You Go Inside

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Obtain a blank confined entry permit and obtain one that has been filled out or used.

What this Safety Talk covers:

What the confined entry permit means to someone going inside a confined space.

Discussion notes:

Some confined entry permit facts to think about

- A confined entry permit form might not address every danger.
- Each confined entry permit applies to one and only one specific crew.
- Confined entry permits are time-limited.
- Every item on a permit is there for a reason.
- OSHA requires an attendant, unless a safe atmosphere can be maintained by mechanical ventilation alone.

Cautions

- Never use another crew's permit. A permit is usually good for one crew and one shift. Individual circumstances or site rules may differ.
- Make sure your attendant understands the permit.
- Never accept excuses for bypassing a confined entry permit requirement. A permit can be updated and reissued, but no part of it can be ignored for any reason.

Duties

Your Confined Entry Permit duties include:

- Ensure the entry supervisor has signed the confined entry permit. It's not valid without that signature.
- Review the confined entry permit before entering. Make sure you understand it. If in doubt, stay out.
- Following the permit requirements is your personal responsibility, both for your safety and that of the other people in the confined space.
- Test communications equipment, flashlights, and PPE before entering.
- Test extraction equipment (if applicable) and ensure it's properly applied, before entering.
- Notify the entry supervisor if conditions change or something seems wrong.
- Report failures of gas meters or other safety equipment immediately.

[Note to Presenter: Address any other duties your company procedures require].

Review and discussion

1. What is the role of the confined entry permit? Why is the permit important?
2. If there is no confined entry permit specifically for your crew, what protection do you have?
3. How is the confined entry permit similar to lockout/tagout? *[Note to Presenter: The main point to be made here is that both expire at the end of the shift. One*

important way they differ is lockout/tagout applies to the individual and confined entry applies to the crew. Different safety practices often have things in common, because the underlying concepts are similar. Comparing one to another can help people understand both.]

4. You are about to sign a confined entry permit when you notice it has yesterday's date on it. What should you do? *[Note to Presenter: You should be able to provide specific instructions if this particular job has confined entry work. What exactly does someone do on this job if there's a problem with the permit? Who is the "go to" person (or persons)?]*

5. Your foreman assigned a crew of six people for this particular job, but the confined entry permit has space for only four people to sign. Can you just add two more? *[Note to Presenter: The foreman will probably have to address the maximum occupancy question. The answer will probably be based on egress and/or extraction. Additional attendants may be required if you add people to the crew inside].*

6. What are some possible errors you might encounter on a confined entry permit—that someone might make when filling it out? Why should you be looking for these?

7. You're getting ready to re-enter, after lunch. Your foreman tells you the confined entry permit for a respiratory protection no longer applies, because the particulates were blown out with forced air while you were having lunch. Yet, the permit itself has not been re-issued. What should you do?

8. In reviewing the confined entry permit with the attendant, you get the impression the attendant is simply not going to be capable of doing what's required. How should you handle this? Should you enter the confined space and hope for the best, or take some other action?

9. Suppose the job is almost done, and things are on a tight schedule. You're part of a replacement crew that is getting ready to enter the vessel. Rather than hold things up when there haven't been any problems, would it be OK to just sign the permit?

10. In your review of the permit, you notice it requires extraction equipment for each worker. There are two sets of extraction straps, but four workers. Bob says, "That's OK. I'm just going to stand inside the door and hand tools in and out to Joe and he's not going in. You and Mike are the only ones who need the equipment. If Bob passes out, how can this be dangerous to you and Mike?

Participant's Signature and Date

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