

Toolbox Talks 2

017: Confined Entry Work Procedures

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Read through your company's confined space policy and the confined space procedures related to this job site. Be prepared to answer questions.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Procedures for working in permit-required confined entry spaces. This safety talk is not all-inclusive. Its purpose is to highlight general principles and make people aware of their responsibilities.

Discussion notes:

Two confined space facts to think about

- Confined space requirements address the atmosphere within that space. They cover such things as poisonous gases or lack of oxygen.
- Confined space requirements are part of the total safety picture. You must also address other hazards that may be present, such as electric shock.

Cautions

- Know the hazards and dangers of the confined space in question. Not all dangers in a particular space are necessarily listed on the confined entry permit.
- Test and properly apply PPE to protect yourself from the hazards of equipment in the confined space, not just the hazards of the space itself.

Procedural highlights

- Follow all instructions given by the entry supervisor before entering, and those of the attendant after entry.
- Communicate with the attendant as needed to keep the attendant apprised of your status. Be alert to the condition of your coworkers.
- Know which gases may be present, what the concentration limits are, and how those limits will be monitored.
- Obtain, test, and properly apply the PPE required by the permit and/or the conditions.
- If you detect a prohibited condition (per the permit), report it immediately.
- If conditions change, report this immediately.
- If you discover an atmosphere hazard the permit did not identify, the conditions have changed. Exit the confined space until the entry supervisor has addressed the hazard.
- Know the locations of fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment.
- Review and understand emergency and extraction procedures for that space.

[Note to Presenter: Address some specifics from your company procedures].

Review and discussion

1. What is your primary working document for confined entry?
2. Whose job is it to ensure the confined space program is followed, and why? *[Note to Presenter: The point here is it is not someone else's job to catch you making a mistake. It is your job to use the confined space program as a tool for making yourself safe when you go into a confined space.]*
3. What are some duties the person going in to the confined space has?
4. Other dangers may be present, in addition to those addressed by the

confined entry program. What might some of these dangers be? *[Note to Presenter: A confined entry job is just like any other job, except now you have to account for the atmosphere of a specific working space. So, the confined entry permit doesn't address all possible dangers.]*

5. Identify some common PPE used in confined spaces, how to test for proper condition, and how to use or apply them correctly.

6. The entry supervisor tells you to remove your metal belt buckle, due to spark hazards. With that caution given, what else might you consider too dangerous to bring in with you? Does it matter that the entry supervisor didn't specifically mention those things?

7. While you're in the confined space, you have no radio. This is an attendant-required space. You call out to the attendant, but get no reply. What should you do?

8. Your confined space is dark inside. You call out to the attendant that your flashlight died. The attendant replies, "I'll bring you my flashlight." What should your immediate response be?

9. How do you know which gases may be present and in what concentrations?

10. Suppose you are in a confined space with atmosphere maintained by forced air, and the airflow stops. What should you do?

Participant's Signature and Date

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