

Toolbox Talks 2

036: Unsafe Acts: Confined Entry

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Review your company's Confined Entry procedures.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Most injuries occur not due to unsafe conditions, but due to unsafe acts. This Safety Talk addresses unsafe acts in confined entry work.

Discussion notes:

Some unsafe acts in confined entry

- Entering the confined space without reviewing the confined entry permit. Review each item one at a time to ensure you understand the hazards and prevention.
- Ignoring or trying to get around permit requirements. Those requirements aren't there to complicate your job. They are there to protect you.
- Working from someone else's permit. Doing this doesn't protect *you*.
- Removing PPE while in the confined space. Respirators, extraction equipment, gloves, and other PPE can be uncomfortable. PPE is listed on a confined entry permit to address a hazard specific to that space. Removing PPE when in the confined space could make you more comfortable, but ask yourself why it's listed on the permit to begin with.
- Being out of communication with the attendant. Communication is one reason for having an attendant. This person is your first line to help if something goes wrong, and may be your only line.
- Using PPE or other safety equipment that isn't in proper working condition. Inspect PPE before use. For example, check lanyards and extraction equipment for frayed strands or other defects; check respirators for proper seal and suitability to the job.
- Using the attendant as a helper. The attendant needs to stay outside the confined space, to preserve your communication link and to be able to conduct or begin a rescue operation. If you need a helper, ask the attendant to communicate this to your foreman.
- Entering an area not covered by the permit. The permit addresses hazards specific to a specific crew doing specific work in a specific area.
- Performing an action that isn't covered by the permit. In general, this applies to actions that introduce energy sources or require their own permits. This is another reason to review the permit before entering; does it match your intended work?
- Performing an action that is prohibited by the permit. Conditions may have changed to make that prohibited action safe now. But this doesn't mean you can violate the permit. It means you can seek to have a new one issued. This is a legal requirement. But it also may produce a new set of checklist items to ensure your safety.

Review and discussion

1. What's wrong with entering without reviewing the confined space permit?
2. Your foreman is supposed to review the permit. Why should you review it as well? *[Note to presenter: The foreman's role is different from that of the crew member, though both need to ensure the permit is valid for that job at that time. The foreman needs to ensure the permit is adequate, and needs to understand what is required of the crew.]*

[illegible]