

Confined Spaces: Permit Before You Enter

Why it matters. A confined space can have air that kills in minutes, without warning. Many people who die in confined spaces are rescuers who went in to help.

KEY POINTS

- A confined space is large enough to enter, has a small way in or out, and is not made for people to stay in. Examples: tanks, pits, silos, vaults, manholes and pipelines.
- A permit space has a hazard. Examples: bad air, material that can bury you, walls that close in, or machines.
- Do not enter a permit space without training and a valid permit.
- The air must be tested for oxygen, flammable gas and toxic gas before entry and during the work.
- An attendant stays outside and keeps contact with you the whole time.

STEP BY STEP

1. Read the permit. Know the hazards, the controls and the time limit.
2. Test the air. Then keep the monitor on while you work.
3. Use the equipment on the permit: ventilation, fall protection, lighting and radio.
4. Keep contact with the attendant by sight, phone or radio.
5. Leave immediately if the attendant tells you to, if an alarm sounds, or if you feel unwell.

NEVER

- ✗ Never enter to rescue a person unless you are a trained rescuer with the correct equipment.
- ✗ Never enter if nobody signed the permit or if the permit time is finished.
- ✗ Never trust your nose to find bad air.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Which spaces at our site are permit spaces?
2. Who is our rescue team, and how do we call them?
3. What are the signs of low oxygen?



Watch this talk as a short video — and get it in your crew's languages.
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Based on OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.146; OSHA QuickCard: Permit-Required Confined Spaces. This talk is a summary. Your site's written procedure and your supervisor's instructions come first.



Language used: _____

By signing, I confirm that I attended this talk and understood it.