

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY TRAINING OUTLINE

For the majority of employees, training on confined space entry will consist of how to recognize a confined space area and to recognize when anybody is working in the area. Specialized training on entering confined spaces is not included in this general program.

Steps in training for all other employees is as follows:

A. Definition of a "Confined Space"

- 1) Large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work.
- 2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (i.e. tanks, vessels, silos, hoppers, vaults, pits, and diked areas).
- 3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.
- 4) Has one or more of the following characteristics:
 - a. Contains or has a known potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
 - b. Contains a material with the potential for engulfment of an entrant.
 - c. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls, or a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.

B. Hazard Identification

There are several types of hazards that may be present in a confined space area: physical, oxygen deficiency, combustibility, and toxic air contaminants. Physical hazards may include mechanical equipment and pressure lines. Oxygen deficiency is caused by the displacement or consumption of oxygen in the confined space. Oxygen can be displaced by other gases, or consumed by chemical reactions such as rusting, rotting, or burning of flammable substances. Fire and explosions are dangers because combustible gases may be present and can be ignited from activities such as welding. Toxic air contaminants may be present from the use of chemicals such as cleaning solvents.

- C. Identify any confined spaces located on the plant's premises. Discuss the signs or other means that are located near the confined space indicating that employees **keep out** of the area. If signs are not posted, you need to make sure that they get posted in the near future.

This meets the training requirements for all other employees. If your plant has areas that are considered confined spaces, you need to ensure that the air is tested prior to entry and that the permit entry procedures in the safety manual are used. Affected employees, such as the plant engineer, should receive the proper training, such as personal protective equipment. Also, plans should be made to notify outside parties, such as contractors and rescue teams, of the hazards associated with the confined space located on the plant's premises.