

Millard Refrigerated Services

Confined Space

Training Outline

Meeting Objectives

To understand the location of any confined spaces in the warehouse. Generally, this will be in tunnels underneath the warehouse where either air or glycol systems are installed to prevent the floor from freezing. This program is intended for warehousemen to enforce the policy of not entering these areas under any circumstance.

Introduction/Overview

OSHA defines a confined space as one whose size and shape allows an employee to enter and perform assigned work. It's not designed to be occupied continuously and has limited or restricted means for getting in and out. By this definition, there may be areas in the warehouse that would be considered confined spaces. There are tunnels (or whatever confined space is in the warehouse) that are not to be entered by any employee, especially warehousemen.

General Hazards

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.

This is a general definition of confined space hazards. However, they are not present in the atmosphere in the tunnels. There should be no reason that any employee needs to enter these areas.

Safety Procedures

The safety procedures for confined space entry are simple: employees are not permitted to enter these areas for any reason whatsoever. If they do, they will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.