

SAFETY RULES

CONFINED SPACES

Employee Safety

Employees face several hazards while working in confined spaces. For this kind of work, it's essential to have safety and rescue plans in place.

WorkSAFE Tips

- Report accidents and injuries in writing to your supervisor before the end of your work shift.
- Report damage or maintenance needs in writing immediately.
- Employees must wear seat belts while driving or riding in vehicles and equipment on the job.
- Never enter a confined space unless trained and authorized.
- Confined space entry begins as soon as any part of the employee's body enters the place of the opening.
- All employees on a confined space job site must be trained to recognize hazards and prevent accidents.
- A written confined space permit must be present near the entry point.
- A written rescue plan must be available for confined space entries.
- Confined space personnel must be in continuous communication during confined space entry.
- Atmosphere monitoring must be performed before and during confined space entries.
- Confined space atmosphere monitoring devices must monitor oxygen levels, flammables and toxics.
- Ventilate all spaces with fresh air before and during confined space entries.
- Employees that are part of the rescue team must be trained in CPR and First Aid.
- Employees must be protected from falling into confined spaces.
- Employees using integrated ladders or portable ladders must be protected by a personal fall arrest system.
- Employees working higher than four feet or six feet in the construction industry must be protected from falls.
- Machines or tools that emit carbon monoxide must not be used in confined spaces.
- When the atmosphere degrades to less than 19.5 percent oxygen content, exit the space immediately.
- Lock and tag mechanical and electrical hazards when performing maintenance in a confined space.
- Do not smoke in confined spaces.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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