

KEYWORDS: CONFINED SPACE; TOXIC; DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERES**10-15 MINUTES**

Topic: Confined spaces–Dangerous atmospheres



IDEAS FOR YOUR TALK:

- People remember facts better when they're interactive and visual:
- People remember stories better than raw facts: think of a personal story that you can share.
- YouTube is another good source of information and offers many safety videos and demonstrations. Select only videos that are high-quality.

Explain dangers:

Dangerous atmospheres have killed those working in confined spaces as well as those attempting rescue.

Dangerous types of atmospheres include :

- Flammable and explosive
- Toxic
- Oxygen-deficient
- Oxygen-enriched.

Demonstrate:

Review the types of confined spaces and atmospheric hazards that your crew may encounter. Demonstrate how to use gas detection equipment.

1. SUGGESTED ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS:

- What is the main risk involved in getting into Confined Spaces ?
- Has anyone heard of an incident or accident involving Confined Spaces ?

2. TALKING POINTS:

CHECK FOR ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS BEFORE ENTERING ANY CONFINED SPACE.

- Many dangerous atmospheres cannot be detected by smell or taste.

ONE DETECTOR CAN'T TEST FOR EVERYTHING.

- Make sure the equipment is able to detect what you suspect. Some detectors have sensors that check for oxygen content, explosive gases or vapours, and a range of toxic gases.

CHECK ALL LEVELS OF THE SPACE.

- Some contaminants are lighter than air and accumulate near the top of the space. Others are heavier than air and settle at the bottom.

DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERES CAN DEVELOP WITHOUT WARNING.

- If you leave the space for a break or lunch, test before you go back in.

VENTILATION AND TESTING MUST BE CONTINUED AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN THE SPACE.

IF THE SPACE CAN'T BE ADEQUATELY VENTILATED, YOU CAN ONLY ENTER IF :

- You wear suitable respiratory protection and a full-body harness attached to a rope anchored outside the space and held by a worker with an alarm
- You have a means of communication with the worker outside
- A person trained and equipped in artificial respiration and emergency rescue is available outside the space.

NEVER TRY TO RESCUE A WORKER OVERCOME IN A CONFINED SPACE UNLESS YOU ARE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED FOR IT. MANY WORKERS TRYING TO SAVE THEIR BUDDIES HAVE BECOME VICTIMS THEMSELVES.

GET EMERGENCY HELP.

3. CLOSING QUESTIONS:

- Do you have questions on this subject ?
- Is there Confined Spaces on this jobsite ?
- Are you aware of a risk on this jobsite that shouldn't be ?



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