

KEYWORDS: CONFINED SPACE; OXYGEN; DUST; ATMOSPHERE

10-15 MINUTES

Topic: Confined space – Definition & Dangers



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:

The hazards of working in confined spaces are often not recognized until it's too late. For example:

- Four workers died from hydrogen sulphide poisoning in a sewage holding tank.
- A worker was killed by carbon monoxide gas from a gasoline-powered pump used to drain a pit.
- A worker was caught in a mixing tank that was accidentally started while he was inside.

Demonstrate:

Identify confined spaces on the project with the crew and discuss potential dangers.

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:

THREE CONDITIONS MUST BE MET BEFORE A SPACE IS DEFINED AS A CONFINED SPACE.

- Must be **fully or partially enclosed**
- Is not both designed and constructed for **continuous human occupancy**
- **Atmospheric hazards** may occur because of its construction, location, or contents, or because of work that is done in it.

FOR ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS may occur, it means that one of the following conditions apply:

- An accumulation of flammable, combustible, or explosive agents
- Less than 19.5% or more than 23% oxygen
- An accumulation of contaminants that could result in short-term health effects that pose an immediate threat to life, or interfere with a person's ability to escape unaided.

PHYSICAL HAZARDS must be controlled in confined spaces through lockout and tagging. (Energized electrical conductors, pressurized pipes, noise, and heat sources)

You must also control **OTHER DANGERS**, such as hazardous dusts, chemical vapours, engine exhaust, and welding fumes.

OTHER SPACES that don't fall under the definition of confined space but need to be assessed and controlled include :

- Trenches and excavations
- Basements
- Halls
- Small rooms.

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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