

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Topic C012: Confined Spaces (A)**

**Introduction:** Every employee working at a jobsite that has a confined space(s) should be able to recognize and have a fundamental understanding of confined spaces and Permit Required Confined Spaces (PRCS). This knowledge is necessary to know how the signs and posted permits may be relevant to help yourself or another person avoid danger. A PRCS may exist that hasn't been identified, and you need to be able to recognize one in order to stay away from it and report it.

### **Competent Person**

A competent person can identify confined spaces, know the hazards, and make decisions about confined spaces will be responsible for evaluating every new worksite and their confined spaces and PRCS. A workplace should have signs describing the type of confined space with directions that you should follow.

### **Confined Space:**

A confined space is an area large enough for a worker to enter and do work, with limited entry or exit, but not designed to stay inside for an extended period of time. If you have to use both hands and feet to get inside the space, it has limited entry. For example, a ladder or crawl area both fit that criteria.

### **Permit Required Confined Space (PRCS)**

A PRCS is a confined space that also has a recognized serious safety or health hazard. Some common hazards: if it has the potential for hazardous atmosphere (no oxygen, toxic gas), burying by material (sand or grain), trapping or impairing breathing (sloping walls or floor).

### **Signs**

Confined spaces and PRCS will often be marked by signs that say "DANGER" with a statement about what it is and an instruction such as "Enter by Permit Only" or "Do Not Enter".

The hazard may not be obvious or even exist at that moment, but that doesn't mean it is safe. Sometimes the work inside the space creates the hazard such as carbon monoxide from a generator.

### **Spotting Confined Spaces**

In a new or changing worksite, or one with different employers, a confined space may not yet be identified because it is new. This is why you should always be on the lookout and report any possible hazards. When you aren't sure if you are entering a confined space, ask yourself the following questions and if the answer to any of them is "yes", then it's a confined space.

- Can a small person get inside the space and do some kind of work?
- Does the entrance require that person to bend their body to get in or out of the space?
- Is that person unable to continuously stay in that space?

If a confined space has some kind of hazard that could injure or make an employee sick, it is a permit required confined space (PRCS).

**Conclusion:** Just a few examples of confined spaces include: bins, boilers, pits, manholes, tanks, incinerators, scrubbers, sewers, crawl spaces, silos, and shafts. Consider what confined spaces and PRCS are at your workplace.

**Employee Attendance:** *(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)*

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*