

Location: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C012: CONFINED SPACE SAFETY (A)

Introduction: Everyone working at a jobsite with a confined space(s) needs to be able to recognize and have a fundamental understanding of confined spaces and permit required confined spaces (PRCS). This is necessary to know how the signs and posted permits may be relevant to help you 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.

Hazard Mitigation:

A few examples of confined spaces include bins, boilers, pits, manholes, tanks, incinerators, scrubbers, sewers, crawl spaces, silos and shafts. Always be aware of what confined spaces and PRCS are at your workplace.

Competent Person:

A competent person who can identify confined spaces, know the hazards, and make decisions about confined spaces is responsible for evaluating every new worksite and their confined spaces and PRCS. Workplaces must 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 for someone to stay inside for an extended time. If you must use both hands and feet to get inside the space, it has limited entry. For example, a ladder or crawl area, both fit that condition.

Permit Required Confined Space (PRCS):

A PRCS is a confined space that also has a recognized serious safety or health hazard. Some common hazards include 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 should be marked by signs that say "DANGER," with a statement about what it is, and instructions, 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's 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 multiple employers, a confined space may not yet be identified because it is new. Therefore, 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 work?
- Does the entrance require that person to bend their body to get in or out of the space?
- Is that person unable to stay continuously in that space?

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

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

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.