

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## TOPIC C552: CRAWL SPACES

**Introduction:** Many buildings are constructed with crawl spaces to provide access to the substructure and the plumbing. Repair and maintenance projects may require you to access these crawl spaces. Make sure you've been trained to perform crawl space work, the nature of any possible hazards involved and the necessary precautions to be taken:

- It's important to consider the age and condition of the structure before entering the crawl space. Check for weaknesses caused by termites or ground settling before entering
- Wear PPE (personal protective equipment) such as safety glasses, knee pads, gloves, long sleeve shirt, dust mask
- Know how to use any emergency equipment that may be required during crawl space repair or maintenance operations; crawl space with limited means of egress could be subject to the accumulation of toxic or flammable contaminants, or have an oxygen deficient atmosphere, must be identified before entry.
- Measures must be taken to eliminate atmospheric hazards such as ventilating the crawl space and/or the use of a respirator

**Never enter a crawl space on a project unless:**

- It's been checked for hazards. When a hazard is identified, it must be eliminated before entry
- All pipes, electrical and other supply lines may be hazardous energies in the crawl space that could create a hazard are controlled (LOTO);also any mechanical equipment in the crawl space is disconnected from its power source and locked out
- Other construction operations are prevented from being conducted near the space opening
- There's an easily accessible exit from the crawl space in an emergency
- The space is large enough to safely perform the work
- Barricades must be used to keep mechanical or heavy equipment away from crawl space entrances
- Arrangements have been made to remove a worker from the crawl space if assistance is required
- An assistant is nearby to watch for hazardous situations, assist in the case of an emergency or call for help

**Make sure that the supplies, equipment or tools to be used in the crawl space are safe for use in that environment**

- When cleaning solvents or paints are to be used in the space, ventilation and/or the appropriate breathing apparatus is required
- All flammable substances and fire hazards must be eliminated, or safely contained before any hot work, riveting, scraping or sanding operations are performed in the space
- Adequate ventilation is required when working with flammable materials in crawl spaces
- Fire extinguishers are readily accessible when working with any equipment, tools or supplies that have the potential to start a fire
- Never use gasoline powered tools in crawl spaces. Don't use any tools that will cause hazardous or unsafe conditions in a crawl space

**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.