

Working in a Confined Space

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Not knowing the dangers of confined spaces has led to the deaths of many workers.

Why: The dead often include ill equipped rescuers.

Outline: This talk will cover hazards, before entry, work in confined spaces and emergency procedures.



Hazards

- Oxygen depleted or enriched environments.
- Presence of suffocating, toxic or flammable atmosphere. • Actual or potentially hostile environment (inside plant).
- Biological hazards, Weil's disease from rat's urine.
- Confined spaces include cellars, chambers, pits, tanks, manholes, sewers, tunnels and some excavations..

Q: What hazards may be found in confined spaces?

Before Entering A Confined Space

- Do not enter a confined space until a risk assessment has been carried out by a competent person.
- Check for flammable or toxic gases and O2 content.
- If breathing apparatus is required do not enter a confined space until you are trained to use it. Obey Permits to Work.
- You must be fit and healthy to enter a confined space.
- Check communications and monitoring equipment.

Q: What must you check for before entering a confined space?

Working In Confined Spaces

- Work will be controlled by a Permit to Work which will include arrangements for rescue.

NOTES

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Working in a Confined Space

- Wear protective equipment and clothing provided.
- Only BASEFFA approved electrical equipment is to be used where flammable gases may be present.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or use naked flame or allow exhaust fumes in close proximity to point of entry.
- Wash hands at the end of each shift.

Q: Name three safety points regarding confined spaces?

Emergency Procedures

- Make sure recovery winch and apparatus is working.
- Location position of nearest telephone and understand emergency procedure.
- Do not attempt a rescue without first raising the alarm and wearing breathing apparatus.
- The first duty of any rescuer is to ensure their own safety.
- Leave confined space immediately if told to do so.

Q: As a rescuer what must you be wearing?

- Note to supervisor: Now inform your workforce of the company policy regarding working in confined spaces.

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What areas could be classed as confined spaces?

Q: Who should carry out an assessment of the confined space before entry?

REMEMBER:

DO NOT ENTER A CONFINED SPACE UNTIL THE RISKS HAVE BEEN ASSESSED

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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