

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

1. Protect the work site from vehicles and pedestrian traffic by using signs and barricades.
2. Smoking or open flames are not permitted in the work area.
3. Before entering the confined space, the atmosphere must be tested using an appropriate gas detector that has been fresh air calibrated and/or bump tested. At minimum, the atmosphere in the confined space must be tested for: Oxygen (O₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), and Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S). If other hazards are suspected, the appropriate tests must be conducted.
4. If any hazardous gases are detected, or if oxygen levels are below 19.5% or above 23%, the confined space must be ventilated using an air mover of sufficient capacity for the volume of the confined space.
5. Confined space atmosphere to be re-tested after ventilating and before entry.
6. If the gas detector alarms for any for any reason DO NOT ENTER.
If LEL (Lower Explosive Limit) alarms and there are no known sources of explosive gases on site, shut off all sources of ignition, evacuate the area and call emergency services (Fire Department, Manitoba Hydro) to report the emergency.
7. If gas detector indicates that all hazardous gases are below permissible levels and that oxygen levels are between 19.5% and 23%, work may begin.
8. If it is not possible to properly disperse of hazardous gases, or if oxygen levels are below 19.5%, a worker may only enter if wearing a positive pressure breathing apparatus connected to a cylinder or compressor (SCBA or SABA).
9. The gas detector must be in the confined space at all times when a worker is in a “high risk” space.
10. All workers entering confined spaces must wear a full body harness in the event they need to be rescued. A winch approved for rescue must be installed above all horizontal confined spaces for emergency retrieval of workers.
11. An observer (safety watch trained in confined space entry, first aid and CPR) must be present outside of the confined space at all times whenever a worker is in the confined space. The observer must have communication with emergency services (radio/telephone). The observer will NOT enter the confined space at any time.
12. Only those persons trained and qualified in confined space rescue shall enter a confined space where an emergency is taking place.
13. Only explosion-proof (intrinsically safe) lighting is to be used in confined spaces.
14. All required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (i.e. hard hat, safety boots, goggles, respirator, gloves) must be worn by workers performing confined space work.

15. Any ladders used must be in good working condition and must be of the appropriate grade for the work being performed.

16. ANY worker having questions regarding their duties or responsibilities is to contact their supervisor BEFORE work commences. ALL workers have the right to refuse any work they believe is unsafe.

17. If a confined space is vacated for any reason, the atmosphere must be tested before re-entry.