



Confined Space Entry Guidelines

These guidelines provide an overview of confined space hazards and entry procedures. Many locations on campus qualify as confined spaces or permit-required confined spaces. Confined spaces have limited or restricted means for exit, and they may pose hazards to entrants. Workers and supervisors should perform a safety assessment before entering a confined space. The EH&IS Confined Space Program has more detail on confined space entry and a database of many of the confined spaces on campus. Supervisors and managers should inform all employees of the existence of confined spaces and potential hazards of unauthorized entry.

Confined Space Pre-Entry Assessment

A confined space is large enough for an employee to enter and work, but has a limited means of exit or entry and not designed for continuous employee occupancy. Before working in any location, assess it to determine whether it is a confined space. Start the assessment by reviewing the confined space database, Confined Space Program, and these guidelines (see links p. 2). If a confined space, determine whether the confined space has potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere, the potential to engulf an entrant, whether inwardly converging walls or sloping floors may trap or asphyxiate an entrant, or whether any other serious safety or health hazards exist. Presence of any of these conditions requires the completion of a permit prior to entry.

Confined Space Entry

Only staff having completed confined space entry training may work in confined spaces. Permit-required confined space entries generally required a barricade or warning around the entrance as a warning to passers-by, air monitoring at some point before and during the entry to ensure a hazardous atmosphere is present, an assessment of other potential hazards such as electrical or fall hazards and creation of safe work practices for the entry to guard against those hazards, and a stand-by rescue team in case an entrant is overcome by a hazard and needs rescue. If a confined space truly does require a permit for entry, contact EHIS to confirm the results of the safety assessment, to complete the permit, and to develop safe work practices for the entry. The entry will require an onsite, trained supervisor and attendant to conduct the entry; specialized equipment is also available in a secured trailer on campus, including fall protection, ventilation, rescue/retrieval, barricade, and air monitoring equipment. A true permit-required confined space entry may also require the presence of a stand-by rescue team. Entries where an assessment has been performed and no unusual hazards exist or where hazardous atmospheres are not present may not require the presence of a rescue team. The pre-entry assessment will help determine that requirement though. Confined spaces on campus are generally treated as permit-required, but often downgraded to non-permit required after the pre-entry assessment has eliminated hazards.

Emergency Procedures

CSUF does not have a trained or authorized rescue team. Therefore, supervisors must contact the Fullerton Fire Department at (714) 738-6500 to request a stand-by rescue team if one is required for the entry. Again, the pre-entry assessment will determine whether a rescue team is required, but potential for a hazardous atmosphere or other serious hazard may require a rescue team. Absent the onsite, stand-by rescue team requirement, contact 911 for emergencies on campus. When respiratory protection is required in confined space entry, at least one other person present must have been trained in CPR. Entrants, attendants, and supervisors must also test and agree upon a means of communication in an emergency.

References and Links

- Campus confined space database:
<http://ehis.fullerton.edu/OHS/OCCSafety/ConfinedSpaces/ConfinedSpaceLocations.aspx>
- Confined Space Entry Program:
<http://ehis.fullerton.edu/OHS/OCCSafety/ConfinedSpaces/ConfinedSpaceProgram.aspx>.
- Confined Space Entry Permit:
<http://ehis.fullerton.edu/OHS/Forms/ConfinedSpaceEntryPermit.pdf>.
- California Code of Regulations: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5158.html>;
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5157.html>;
http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/ConfSpa.pdf