

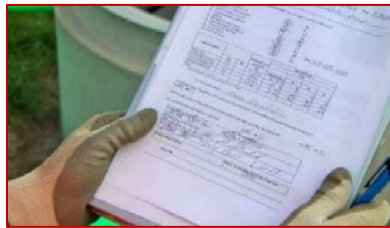
TOPIC: Confined Spaces – Permit vs. Non-Permit Spaces #6

PRIMARY POTENTIAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- INSUFFICIENT OXYGEN – ASPHYXIATION – SUFFOCATION
- TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS – IMPAIRMENT – INCAPACITATION – DEATH
- FLAMMABLE GASES & VAPORS – FIRES & EXPLOSIONS

PRIMARY EXPOSURES FOR MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- Entry into pipelines, ductwork, equipment housings, boilers, manholes, sewers, vaults, tunnels, shafts, vessels, pits, tanks, etc. that have limited or restricted means for entry or exit, and are not designed for continuous human occupancy
- Hot work inside a confined space that could change what would otherwise be acceptable atmospheric conditions to hazardous atmospheric conditions



PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES

- All confined spaces are *Permit-Required* spaces unless your company's designated *Competent Person* and *Entry Supervisor* reclassify the spaces.

NON-PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES

- The *Competent Person* performs a thorough hazard assessment inside the space, and in surrounding areas outside the space.
- No atmospheric hazards exist inside the space.
- If atmospheric hazards were identified inside the space, forced air ventilation alone removes the atmospheric hazards.
- Other hazards inside the space, if they were not altogether eliminated, remain isolated.
- No hazards are present in surrounding areas outside the space.
- Based on a thorough hazard assessment, the *Competent Person* recommends to the *Entry Supervisor* that the space be reclassified as a non-permit required space.
- The *Entry Supervisor* evaluates the recommendation, agrees that the space should be reclassified, and completes the procedures and paperwork required for reclassification.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Even though a space is classified as a non-permit space, make sure that you continuously monitor the space for atmospheric hazards throughout entry operations.