

## TOPIC: Confined Spaces – General

## #7

### PRIMARY POTENTIAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- INSUFFICIENT OXYGEN – ASPHYXIATION – SUFFOCATION
- TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS – IMPAIRMENT – INCAPACITATION – DEATH
- FLAMMABLE GASES AND 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



### SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Treat every confined space as a *Permit-Required* space unless your company's designated *Competent Person* and *Entry Supervisor* reclassify the space as *Non-Permit Required*.
- Never enter any confined space until you have the appropriate confined space entry safety training. Carefully follow the safe work practices and procedures from the training.
- Before entering any confined space, make sure the *Competent Person* has tested the atmospheric conditions inside the space and informed you that it is safe to enter.
- Once you enter the space, continuously monitor the atmosphere inside for changes that could render the space unsafe.
- Use monitoring equipment with built-in hazard detection alarms. If an alarm sounds, exit the space immediately and do not re-enter until the *Competent Person* informs you that it is safe to do so.
- If you have any questions or concerns about confined space entry, check with your company's *Competent Person* for confined space entry immediately.