

CONFINED SPACES -- DEADLY SPACES



What is a confined space?

It is a space that is:

- a. enclosed or partially enclosed,
- b. not designed or intended for continuous human occupancy,
- c. restricted for entry/exit complicating emergency services, and
- d. big enough for a worker to enter (put their head inside)



NEVER enter a confined space unless you have the training and knowledge to work safely.

Some examples:

- ◆ Tanks
- ◆ Boilers
- ◆ Vats
- ◆ Kilns
- ◆ Vaults
- ◆ Silos
- ◆ Pipelines
- ◆ Sewers
- ◆ Manure pits
- ◆ Storage bins
- ◆ Double hulls
- ◆ Pumping stations
- ◆ Pits, sumps
- ◆ Vessels
- ◆ Manholes
- ◆ Water reservoirs
- ◆ **Other similar spaces**

A confined space can be deadly. You must follow special precautions and procedures before you enter.

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Even if you just put your head inside the opening you have "ENTERED" the confined space.

Why are confined spaces DEADLY?

Four reasons:

1. There is not enough oxygen for life.
2. There are toxic gases.
3. There are explosive vapours or gases.
4. There are materials or equipment inside the space that can trap, crush, or bury a worker.

How can workers be protected?

1. **Avoid entry.**
2. Make sure a **hazard assessment** has been done by a **qualified person** and **written work procedures** are completed.
3. **Plan ahead.** Plan for a safe entry and have an **emergency rescue plan.**
4. **Test the air.**
5. **Ventilate the space.** Bring in enough fresh air so that the air you are breathing inside is safe to breathe.
6. **Follow safe work procedures.**
7. **Use the right equipment.**
8. **Use safety precautions.**



Instructions for printing this pocket card:

1. Print 4 copies using a colour printer if you have one.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Take the bottom cut piece and place it on the back of the top cut piece, printing facing outwards to form a “card”.
4. Place the four “cards” on a laminating sheet and run these through a laminator being careful to keep each copy “lined up”.
5. Trim plastic to within $\frac{1}{4}$ ” of the edge – each card will be approximately 5” x 3”.