



## GOALS

This safety session should teach employees to:

- Identify the different roles and responsibilities associated with work in and around permit-required confined spaces.

### Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.146 (general industry)



#### 1. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires detailed safety precautions for work in permit-required confined spaces.

When employees must enter confined spaces, employers must:

- Identify space hazards and remove or control them with ventilation, etc.
- Develop and post a detailed entry permit.
- Use barriers and warnings to keep unauthorized employees out of permit spaces.
- Determine and maintain safe conditions for entering and working in the space.
- Train employees to perform jobs in and around permit spaces.

#### 2. Only trained employees can work in permit-required spaces.

Employees are trained to safely perform the jobs of:

- Authorized entrants
- Attendants
- Entry supervisors
- Rescuers (unless emergency services perform the task)

#### 3. Authorized entrants enter and work in permit-required spaces.

Entrants must be able to:

- Identify the space's physical and health hazards, as well as signs and symptoms of exposure.
- Properly use any necessary equipment to:
  - Test, monitor, and ventilate the atmosphere in the space when trained and authorized to do so.
  - Communicate with others working in and outside the space.
  - Protect themselves from exposure to dangerous levels of toxins, power, equipment, etc.
- Wear chest or full-body harnesses, or, when appropriate, wristlets, to permit rescue.
- Stay in constant contact with the attendant to assure fast attention to problems.
- Alert the attendant to signs of personal exposure or danger in the space.
- Leave the space quickly after identifying a problem or getting a signal or order from the attendant or entry supervisor.

#### 4. Attendants stand outside the space to monitor and protect authorized entrants.

Attendants must be able to:

- Remain outside the space during entry operations.
- Maintain accurate count of authorized entrants in the space.



- Identify the space's hazards, exposure consequences, and signs that authorized entrants have been exposed to hazards.
- Stay in constant contact with workers in the space.
- Monitor activities in and outside the space that could affect entrant safety.
- Order entrants to evacuate the space immediately if:
  - Conditions in or outside the space endanger authorized entrants.
  - Workers in the space show signs of dangerous exposure.
  - The attendant can't safely and effectively perform all his/her duties.
- Summon rescue or emergency services or perform permitted nonentry rescues.
- Keep unauthorized persons away from the space and alert authorized entrants and entry supervisor if such people enter the permit space.

## 5. Entry supervisors take responsibility for permits and safety procedures.

They:

- Identify the space's hazards, consequences, and signs of exposure.
- Make sure the entry permit is complete and that:
  - Listed tests and hazard removal/controls have been completed
  - Listed procedures are followed
  - Listed safety, communications, and rescue equipment is in place
  - Rescue services are available
- Sign the permit and verify emergency plans.
- Cancel the entry and permit when operations are completed or the permit expires or a dangerous condition arises.
- Remove unauthorized individuals from the permit area.

## 6. Rescuers are trained and equipped to rescue entrants.

- When self-rescue or nonentry rescue is not possible; the attendant will notify the rescue team.
- Each rescue service member must practice making rescues in the type of confined spaces present at the employer's facility annually.



### DISCUSSION POINTS:

Ask participants to describe how authorized entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors would work together in the event of a confined space emergency.



### CONCLUSION:

- All three roles are essential to safety.
- Authorized entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors must know how to perform work safely in permit-required confined spaces.



### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Employee Roles in Confined Spaces quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand these roles and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



## Working together for safety in confined spaces

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### Authorized entrants work safely in a confined space by:

- Following safety procedures
- Knowing how to use all equipment inside the space properly
- Maintaining contact with coworkers and attendants
- Using personal protective equipment, including harnesses and retrieval lines
- Alerting the attendant immediately to hazardous conditions or exposure symptoms
- Evacuating immediately if danger develops or the attendant signals

### Attendants monitor and help ensure entrants' safety by:

- Remaining outside an occupied permit space and knowing who's in it
- Warning unauthorized people to stay away
- Staying in constant contact with authorized entrants
- Ordering entrants to leave the space immediately if they lose contact, show signs of exposure, or face danger from changing conditions
- Alerting needed rescue services and performing permitted nonentry rescues

### Entry supervisors oversee safe operations by:

- Checking that the space has been tested and hazards controlled or eliminated
- Making sure permit-listed communication and safety equipment and rescue services are present
- Signing the permit and verifying emergency plans
- Removing unauthorized people from the permit area
- Canceling the permit (and operation) when the job ends or conditions become unsafe
- Rescuers are trained and equipped to rescue entrants by:
  - Practicing making rescues in the types of spaces present at the employer's facility

### If you're assigned to any of these roles, you must know:

- Permit-required confined space hazards and their consequences
- Signs and symptoms of hazards and dangerous exposures



## EMPLOYEE ROLES IN CONFINED SPACES QUIZ

- 1. Before employees can work in permit-required confined spaces, employers must test the atmosphere and remove or control hazards.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 2. The employees who enter and work in permit-required confined spaces are:**
  - a. Entry supervisors
  - b. Authorized entrants
  - c. Entry-level employees
- 3. All employees involved with confined space entry must know about the space's:**
  - a. Hazards, hazard consequences, and signs and symptoms of exposure
  - b. Previous uses and history
  - c. Temperature
- 4. One responsibility of authorized entrants is to:**
  - a. Fill out confined space permits.
  - b. Stay in constant contact with attendants.
  - c. Practice rescuing other entrants from confined spaces.
- 5. Authorized entrants wear harnesses with retrieval lines to permit rescue if they get in trouble.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 6. Attendants decide if and when entrants need to evacuate quickly from a confined space.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 7. Attendants can enter the space only to check on or rescue authorized entrants.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 8. Entry supervisors' responsibilities include:**
  - a. Rescuing entrants from the space
  - b. Training authorized entrants
  - c. Signing entry permits and verifying emergency plans
- 9. An authorized entrant may remove unauthorized people from the permit area.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 10. All three roles are essential to safe operations in permit-required confined spaces.**
  - a. True
  - b. False

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_