

Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness

INSTRUCTOR + PRINT PACKET

AUDIENCE	EST. TIME	REFERENCE
Employees who may work around confined spaces	35-45 min	29 CFR 1910.146

IMPORTANT USE NOTE

Awareness training only unless the employer uses it as part of a complete role-specific program. Entrants, attendants, entry supervisors and rescue personnel require assigned-duty training and proficiency.

What is inside this packet

- Instructor quick-start and site-specific preparation checklist
- Slide-by-slide trainer guide with discussion prompts
- Employee handout / key takeaways
- Printable 10-question knowledge check
- Separate answer key and coaching notes
- Attendance record
- Practical / workplace evaluation checklist
- Certificate wording and completion record
- Primary regulatory/source reference

Run a strong session without overcomplicating it.

1. PREPARE	Review the deck and packet. Insert your procedures, equipment, routes, photos, emergency contacts and site rules.
2. PRESENT	Use the PowerPoint/PDF on a screen. Pause for discussion rather than reading every bullet.
3. CHECK	Give the knowledge check. Review missed items and coach to the expected decision.
4. VERIFY	Complete required hands-on or workplace-specific practice/evaluation with an appropriate trainer/evaluator.
5. DOCUMENT	Use the attendance record, evaluation and certificate only after required training elements are complete.

BEFORE EMPLOYEES WORK

Awareness training only unless the employer uses it as part of a complete role-specific program. Entrants, attendants, entry supervisors and rescue personnel require assigned-duty training and proficiency.

Learning objectives

- Recognize confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces
- Identify atmospheric, engulfment, configuration and other serious hazards
- Understand entrant, attendant and entry-supervisor roles
- Know why unauthorized entry and unplanned rescue are deadly

1. What is a confined space?

- Large enough and configured so an employee can bodily enter and perform work.
- Limited/restricted means for entry or exit.
- Not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

Where could this fail here?

2. When it becomes permit-required

- Potential hazardous atmosphere.
- Potential engulfment.
- Internal configuration that could trap/asphyxiate.
- Any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What control do we use?

3. Atmospheric hazards

- Oxygen deficiency/enrichment, toxic gases/vapors and flammable atmospheres require appropriate testing/control.
- Never trust smell or appearance.
- Testing and ventilation must follow the employer program.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What would make you stop?

4. Roles and communication

- Authorized entrants understand hazards and equipment, communicate status and exit when required.
- Attendants remain outside, monitor entrants/conditions and summon rescue.
- Entry supervisors verify the permit/conditions and authorize/cancel entry.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

Where could this fail here?

5. Isolation and permit controls

- Lockout/tagout, blanking/blinding, line breaking, ventilation, barriers and other controls may be needed.
- The entry permit documents acceptable conditions, testing, entrants, attendants, supervisor, rescue and other required information.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What control do we use?

6. Rescue without creating more victims

- Would-be rescuers entering without training/equipment can become victims.
- Use the designated rescue system and non-entry retrieval when feasible/required.
- Know how to summon rescue before entry starts.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What would make you stop?

Stop-work / red-flag conditions

- Employee intends to “just stick my head in” an unassessed space
- Atmosphere has not been tested as required
- No attendant/rescue arrangement for a permit entry
- Isolation depends only on a control switch

SCENARIO

A worker collapses inside a permit space. A coworker at the opening wants to climb in immediately to pull them out. What is the correct response?

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Do not make an unplanned entry. Follow the rescue plan, summon the designated rescue capability and use non-entry retrieval where appropriate and provided.

Make it site-specific

- Identify and label actual confined/permit spaces
- Review permit-space program and prohibited entry rules
- Show monitoring, ventilation, isolation and retrieval equipment
- Explain entrant/attendant/supervisor/rescue roles and emergency contacts

Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness

KEEP THIS PAGE

Key decisions to remember

What is a confined space?: Large enough and configured so an employee can bodily enter and perform work.

When it becomes permit-required: Potential hazardous atmosphere.

Atmospheric hazards: Oxygen deficiency/enrichment, toxic gases/vapors and flammable atmospheres require appropriate testing/control.

Roles and communication: Authorized entrants understand hazards and equipment, communicate status and exit when required.

Isolation and permit controls: Lockout/tagout, blanking/blinding, line breaking, ventilation, barriers and other controls may be needed.

Rescue without creating more victims: Would-be rescuers entering without training/equipment can become victims.

Stop and get help when...

- Employee intends to “just stick my head in” an unassessed space
- Atmosphere has not been tested as required
- No attendant/rescue arrangement for a permit entry
- Isolation depends only on a control switch

Our site-specific information

- ☐ Identify and label actual confined/permit spaces
- ☐ Review permit-space program and prohibited entry rules
- ☐ Show monitoring, ventilation, isolation and retrieval equipment
- ☐ Explain entrant/attendant/supervisor/rescue roles and emergency contacts

Employee notes:

Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness - Knowledge Check

Employee: _____ Date: _____

1. A confined space is generally:

- ☐ A. Large enough to enter, has limited/restricted entry/exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy
- ☐ B. Any small room
- ☐ C. Any room without windows
- ☐ D. Only underground spaces

2. A permit-required confined space can involve:

- ☐ A. Hazardous atmosphere, engulfment, trapping configuration or other serious hazard
- ☐ B. Only low lighting
- ☐ C. Only noise
- ☐ D. Only narrow doors

3. Atmospheric testing should rely on:

- ☐ A. Approved instruments/procedures, not smell or appearance
- ☐ B. Smell only
- ☐ C. A lighter flame
- ☐ D. Worker experience only

4. The attendant normally:

- ☐ A. Remains outside and monitors entrants/conditions
- ☐ B. Enters first to inspect
- ☐ C. Performs production work elsewhere
- ☐ D. Leaves when the entrant is busy

5. The entry supervisor:

- ☐ A. Verifies conditions/permit and authorizes or cancels entry
- ☐ B. Only orders supplies
- ☐ C. Must always be the attendant
- ☐ D. Does not review hazards

Score: _____ / 10 Passing requirement / retraining criteria:

6. Isolation may require:

- ☐ A. LOTO, blanking/blinding or other effective controls
- ☐ B. A stop button only
- ☐ C. A warning cone only
- ☐ D. Verbal notice only

7. If an entrant is in distress, an untrained coworker should:

- ☐ A. Activate the rescue plan rather than impulsively enter
- ☐ B. Immediately climb in
- ☐ C. Turn off the monitor
- ☐ D. Ignore the attendant

8. Rescue capability should be:

- ☐ A. Planned before entry
- ☐ B. Selected after an emergency
- ☐ C. Based only on distance to a fire station
- ☐ D. Optional for permit spaces

9. Permit-space training must establish:

- ☐ A. Understanding, knowledge and skills for assigned duties
- ☐ B. Attendance only
- ☐ C. A generic awareness certificate only
- ☐ D. Seniority

10. This awareness course alone qualifies someone as entrant, attendant or entry supervisor.

- ☐ A. False
- ☐ B. True

Employee signature: _____

Answer key + coaching notes

- 1. A - Large enough to enter, has limited/restricted entry/exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy** | A confined space is generally:
- 2. A - Hazardous atmosphere, engulfment, trapping configuration or other serious hazard** | A permit-required confined space can involve:
- 3. A - Approved instruments/procedures, not smell or appearance** | Atmospheric testing should rely on:
- 4. A - Remains outside and monitors entrants/conditions** | The attendant normally:
- 5. A - Verifies conditions/permit and authorizes or cancels entry** | The entry supervisor:
- 6. A - LOTO, blanking/blinding or other effective controls** | Isolation may require:
- 7. A - Activate the rescue plan rather than impulsively enter** | If an entrant is in distress, an untrained coworker should:
- 8. A - Planned before entry** | Rescue capability should be:
- 9. A - Understanding, knowledge and skills for assigned duties** | Permit-space training must establish:
- 10. A - False** | This awareness course alone qualifies someone as entrant, attendant or entry supervisor.

COACHING RULE

Do not treat a passing written score as proof of hands-on competency. Retrain missed critical concepts and complete workplace-specific verification where required.

Attendance + completion record

Course: Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness

Date: _____ Instructor: _____ Department / Location: _____

Employee Printed Name	Employee Signature	Job / Department	Date

Site-specific topics / notes:

Can the employee apply it?

Employee: _____ Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

Evaluation Item	Meets	Coach	N/A
Recognizes confined/permit space	☐	☐	☐
Identifies likely hazards	☐	☐	☐
Explains no-entry rule without authorization	☐	☐	☐
Identifies assigned roles	☐	☐	☐
Explains testing/isolation basics	☐	☐	☐
Describes rescue activation without impulsive entry	☐	☐	☐

Comments / coaching:

Result: ☐ Competent for evaluated task (subject to employer authorization) ☐ More training/practice needed

Evaluator signature: _____ Employee signature: _____

CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

This certifies that

completed the formal / awareness training portion of
Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness

Date: _____ Instructor: _____
Employer / Location: _____

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Regulatory / source reference

Primary reference: 29 CFR 1910.146

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.146>

Before delivery

- Confirm current OSHA and applicable state-plan requirements
- Confirm manufacturer instructions and employer procedures
- Insert workplace-specific hazards, controls, emergency contacts and rules
- Use competent/qualified trainers or evaluators where required
- Complete practical/workplace training and authorization requirements where applicable
- Retain training records according to employer and regulatory requirements

FINAL REMINDER

Awareness training only unless the employer uses it as part of a complete role-specific program. Entrants, attendants, entry supervisors and rescue personnel require assigned-duty training and proficiency.