

Permit-Required Confined Space Awareness

Professional downloadable safety training

TRAINING OUTCOME

Recognize confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces

AUDIENCE

Employees who may work around confined spaces

TIME

35-45 min

REFERENCE

29 CFR 1910.146

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.

Start with the hazard. Build the safe decision.

Use this slide to connect the topic to what employees actually see, touch, drive or do.

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.

ASK THE ROOM

01

Where could this go wrong here?

02

What control keeps us safe?

03

What should make us stop?

What employees should be able to do

Keep the session practical: recognize the hazard, choose the control, know when to stop.

01

Recognize confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces

02

Identify atmospheric, engulfment, configuration and other serious hazards

03

Understand entrant, attendant and entry-supervisor roles

04

Know why unauthorized entry and unplanned rescue are deadly

What is a confined space?

Start with what the employee is exposed to.

- 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.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

When it becomes permit-required

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

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

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

Atmospheric hazards

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- 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.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

Roles and communication

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- 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.

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

Isolation and permit controls

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- 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.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

Rescue without creating more victims

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- 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.

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

These are the moments to slow down and regain control.

01

Employee intends to “just stick my head in”
an unassessed space

02

Atmosphere has not been tested as required

03

No attendant/rescue arrangement for a permit
entry

04

Isolation depends only on a control switch

What would you do next?

Give the group 30-60 seconds before revealing the recommended response.

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.

DISCUSS

01

What is the hazard?

02

What control is missing?

03

What is the safest next action?

04

What is our site rule?

This is where generic training becomes your program.

Replace examples with your actual equipment, procedures, hazards and expectations.



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

BEFORE WORK

01

Show the actual procedure

02

Show the actual
equipment/task

03

Confirm questions are
answered

04

Complete required evaluation

Can the employee apply it?

Written knowledge matters. Safe performance in the real workplace matters more.

☐ 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

Use the included evaluation form when hands-on demonstration or workplace verification is appropriate or required.

Knowledge check 1-5

Use the printable test in the course package for employee responses.

1

A confined space is generally:

2

A permit-required confined space can involve:

3

Atmospheric testing should rely on:

4

The attendant normally:

5

The entry supervisor:

Knowledge check 6-10

Use the printable test in the course package for employee responses.

6

Isolation may require:

7

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

8

Rescue capability should be:

9

Permit-space training must establish:

10

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

Know the hazard. Use the control. Stop when it is not right.

- 01 Recognize confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces
- 02 Employee intends to “just stick my head in” an unassessed space
- 03 Identify and label actual confined/permit spaces

NEXT STEPS

- 01 Answer questions
- 02 Complete site-specific training
- 03 Complete required hands-on evaluation
- 04 Document attendance/completion

Use this package as a strong training foundation.

Always align the material to current requirements, manufacturer instructions and your own procedures.

Primary reference

29 CFR 1910.146

Training 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.

BEFORE YOU DELIVER

- ✓ Confirm current OSHA/state-plan requirements
- ✓ Insert your procedures and equipment information
- ✓ Use qualified/competent trainers where required
- ✓ Complete practical/workplace evaluation where required
- ✓ Keep training and authorization records

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