

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

CONFINED SPACE VENTILATION

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Forced ventilation of a confined space provides fresh air to remove toxic fumes and/or provide a safe level of oxygen. No one type of ventilation system will work effectively in all types of confined spaces. The selection of the ventilation system to be used will depend on the type of work performed, vessel configuration and toxic gas concentration. Ventilation should include the following procedures.

See Confined Space Job Procedures, Safe Work Practice(s) and Part XVIII of the OH&S Regulations for further information. ***Note: Under the OH&S Regulations, a specific Job Procedure must be prepared for each hazardous confined space before a worker is permitted to enter.***

1. Testing of the atmosphere in the confined space will be required before workers can enter, even when ventilation is used.
2. All openings to the confined space should be open to allow maximum dilution of contaminants.
3. Fresh air should be introduced with a positive pressure air blower where the highest concentration of contaminants in the confined space exists. Prevent toxic materials such as motor exhaust from being supplied to the confined space. Locate the blower intake in an area where only fresh air exists.
4. Care must be taken to avoid creating pockets of toxic or flammable gas by the discharge of vapors from the confined space.
5. Equipment must be grounded and bonded to the structure of the confined space. Failure to do so may result in a discharge of static electricity and an explosion. Electrical equipment used in a confined space must meet Canadian & Saskatchewan
6. Oxygen should not be used for ventilation. In a confined space, oxygen can increase the risk of igniting flammable gas and/or creating uncontrolled chemical reactions.