

# SAFE WORK PRACTICES

## CONFINED SPACES *Page 1 of 2*

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

**Definition:** A confined space is any location that can have an accumulation of gases or vapors or have an oxygen deficiency and/or have limited or difficult access.

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. All workers engaged in confined space work shall follow entry procedures ***exactly*** and have an emergency plan.
2. A work permit must be obtained from the client prior to starting each shift.
3. Never enter a confined space alone; and never until you are satisfied that it is safe to do so.
4. All matches, lighters and cigarettes are to be left in the vehicle outside the firewall. Designated smoking areas must be clearly indicated to the work crew.
5. First aid services, equipment and clean and dry first aid supplies must be available at or near the work site and be available during working hours.
6. If the confined space has a top entry only a CSA approved harness and hoisting equipment must be in place to rescue a worker.
7. All internal moving parts must be locked out and disconnected.
8. Ensure that a "safety man" remains outside of the confined space at all times while workers are inside the confined space.
9. A confined space must be tested (as required) for: flammable vapors, oxygen level and toxic or hazardous materials.
10. Workers must maintain the respiratory protective equipment in a clean condition and inspect the equipment prior to each use.
11. When reduced oxygen exists, workers must wear CSA approved air supply equipment that supplied at least 19.5% oxygen and no greater than 22% oxygen.
12. Adequate ventilation (fresh air) must be provided.
13. Indirect fired heaters must be monitored. Heaters and intakes must be located ***upwind*** of the confined space.

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14. Keep the work area clean and free from tripping and slipping hazards.
15. Hazardous materials in the confined space must be at a safe level or properly isolated. Only enough product for immediate use shall be brought into a confined work space.
16. Chemicals or resins must not be stored or mixed within a confined space without adequate ventilation being provided.
17. Workers must be protected from falling by a guard rail or safety harness and anchored lanyard when working at heights greater than 10 feet.
18. Maintain all equipment in a condition that will not compromise the health and safety of workers using or transporting the equipment.