

1. Change behaviors.
2. Challenge ourselves to re-think how we work.
3. Certify the results on a daily basis.



# Tool Box Talk

*Week of December 14, 2009*

## Confined Space

### What is a confined Space?

OSHA defines a confined space as a space that is large enough and configured in such a way that a person can enter and perform work inside, but has **limited** or **restricted** means of entry/exit, and is not designed for continuous occupancy.

### What is Limited or Restricted means of Entry/Exit?

This is the physical impediment of the body where there may be physical barriers to movement and it can be difficult to get into or to remove an injured worker from the space because of the size or location.

**Examples of Confined Spaces** include storage tanks, vessels, drums, pits, silos, vats, boilers, ventilation and exhaust ducts, sewers, tunnels, underground utility vaults, wells, shafts, and deep trenches.

Confined space accidents happen more often than you might think. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) say that these accidents, which often result in injuries or fatalities, usually occur because entrants encounter one or more of the following potential hazards:

- Lack of natural ventilation
- Oxygen-deficient atmosphere
- Flammable/explosive atmosphere
- Unexpected release of hazardous material
- Limited exit and entry
- Dangerous concentrations of air contaminants
- Physical barriers or limitation to movement
- Instability of stored product

OSHA requirement for confined spaces programs require — *training annually all workers who will be involved in any activities related to regulated confined spaces.*