



PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE

Last week we defined what makes a “**Confined Space**”. This week we will discuss what makes a confined space a “**Permit Required Confined Space**”

“**PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE**” is a confined Space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Hazardous atmosphere

- Explosive > 10% LEL
- O₂ < 19.5%
- O₂ > 23.5%
- IDLH

2. Engulfment Hazard

3. Entrapment Hazard

4. Energy Sources

- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Pneumatic
- Hydraulic
- Steam /Process

5. Chemical



Written Program Requirement

Employers whose operations may require workers to enter spaces defined by the OSHA standard as “permit-required confined spaces” must have a written program that provides proper protection including:

- Prohibiting entry without a permit approved by the supervisor, and protecting and posting the openings to bar unauthorized entry
- Testing the atmosphere before entry for oxygen content and for any flammable gases and vapors or toxic air contaminants, and then purging the atmosphere of hazardous elements
- Providing appropriate ventilation, lighting, and personal protective equipment for the entrant
- Having at least one attendant on standby outside the space in continuous communication with the worker inside, wearing protective equipment, and equipped with a lifeline or harness in case a rescue is needed
- Arranging necessary rescue equipment, personnel, and procedures
- Training all workers who will be involved in any activities related to regulated confined spaces