PennState Physical Plant

Program Highlights

CONFINED SPACE

SEPTEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this program is to protect employees from the hazards associated with working in confined spaces. A confined space is defined as a space large enough to enter, not designed for continuous human occupancy and has limited means for entry and exit. A space which meets this definition and also has potential for additional serious hazards is considered a "Permit Required Confined Space."

This program applies to all employees who may be required to work in these spaces.

TRAINING

General awareness training is required for all employees who may work around confined spaces. Authorized employee training is required for all entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors; initially and every 3 years.

Training on the use of the confined space gas monitors is also required every 3 years

KEY ELEMENTS

- Confined spaces should be evaluated prior to entry.
- Confined Space Permit shall be completed prior to entry.
- An attendant shall be present during entry.
    - No other duties may be assigned to the attendant.
- Continuous air monitoring shall be conducted for the duration of the job.
    - Document readings every 15 minutes
- The space must be vacated for any alarm condition
- Entrants shall be connected to retrieval device at all times unless the connection poses a greater hazard.

REFERENCE

Confined Space Program

Committed to Safety Excellence