

CONFINED SPACE ASSESSMENT

Date: *May 5, 2004*

Facility Confined Space Coordinator: *Jim N.*

I. Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to identify all confined spaces at this location and to determine whether they are non-permit, permit-required, or permit exempt confined spaces according to 29 CFR 1910.146

II. Identify All Confined Spaces

Under the OSHA standard (1910.146(b)), a confined space is:

- ◆ A space that has adequate size and configuration for employee entry.*
- ◆ Has limited means for entry & egress; and,
- ◆ Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

**Entry occurs when any part of the entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening into the space*

III. Identify Any Hazards

Under the OSHA standard, a confined space hazard can include the following:

- ◆ Oxygen deficiency (less than 19.5%; fresh air is normally 21%)
- ◆ Toxic atmospheres (e.g. Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) greater than 10 ppm or Carbon Monoxide (CO) greater than 35 ppm)
- ◆ Fire (greater than 23.5% oxygen)
- ◆ Explosion (Flammable gas, vapor, mist greater than 10% Lower Flammable Limit or airborne dust at a concentration that meets or exceeds its LFL)
- ◆ Risk for engulfment/entrapment (grain elevator, water, wood chip bin)
- ◆ Machine Hazards
- ◆ Has an internal configuration that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated (narrowing tunnel)
- ◆ Contains any other safety or health hazards that could cause serious injury or death examples: falling, electrocution

IV. Classify All Confined Spaces

- ◆ If the confined space has no identified hazards, the confined space is a NON-PERMIT confined space.
- ◆ If the confined space has any identified hazards, it is a PERMIT-REQUIRED confined space.
- ◆ If the permit required confined space's only hazard is an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere that can be made non-hazardous by the use of continuous, forced ventilation, it is a PERMIT EXEMPT confined space.

V. ELIMINATING HAZARDS

If the hazard(s) of the confined space can be eliminated, for example: by blanking, blinding or lockout, it can be classified as a Non-Permit. These procedures must be followed prior to entering a confined space! If the hazard can be eliminated by continuous, forced ventilation, it can be classified as Permit-Exempt and those procedures must be followed.

VI. NON PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES

For all NON-PERMIT confined spaces, the following procedures must be in place:

- ◆ A copy of this assessment must be included in the operation's manual.
- ◆ All NON-PERMIT confined spaces must be labeled appropriately.
- ◆ Employees entering NON-PERMIT spaces must be trained annually.
- ◆ It is recommended that employees entering NON-PERMIT spaces ventilate the area.
- ◆ It is recommended that employees entering NON-PERMIT spaces use 2-way radios and/or the buddy system for continuous communication
- ◆ If at any time the employee entering a NON-PERMIT space loses contact with the attendant, the attendant *will not* enter the confined space and *will* call for emergency assistance.
- ◆ If NON-PERMIT conditions change, the confined space will be reevaluated and possibly re-classified.

VII. PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES

For all PERMIT-REQUIRED confined spaces, a written program must be developed that includes the following elements:

- ◆ Label all PERMIT-REQUIRED confined spaces with "DANGER – PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER" (or similar language) signage.
- ◆ Identify and evaluate confined space hazards before employee entry
- ◆ Specify acceptable entry conditions
- ◆ Designate authorized entrants, attendants, entry supervisors, testing persons
- ◆ Purge, inert, flush or ventilate the permit space to eliminate atmospheric hazards
- ◆ Provide equipment to employees (at no cost, properly maintained and ensure that it is used properly): Communications equipment, personal protective equipment, lighting equipment, barriers and shields, ladders, rescue and emergency equipment
- ◆ Develop procedures for summoning rescue services and preventing personnel from attempting a rescue
- ◆ Develop system for the preparation, issuance, use and cancellation of entry permits.
- ◆ Train employees as required by the standard
- ◆ If PERMIT-REQUIRED conditions change, the confined space will be reevaluated and possibly re-classified.

VI. PERMIT-EXEMPT CONFINED SPACES

For all PERMIT-EXEMPT confined spaces, the following procedures must be in place:

- ◆ A copy of this assessment must be included in the operation's manual.
- ◆ All PERMIT-EXEMPT confined spaces must be labeled as *permit required*
- ◆ Employer must have monitoring & inspection data to support that the atmospheric levels are safe when continuous, forced ventilation is present.
- ◆ Forced air ventilation must be continuous during the entry procedure
- ◆ Air monitoring must be done prior to entrance for oxygen, flammable gases & vapors *and must be safe!*
- ◆ PERMIT-EXEMPT entrances do not require the following:
 - ◆ Written Program
 - ◆ Entry Permits
 - ◆ Rescue
- ◆ Employees entering PERMIT-EXEMPT spaces must use 2-way radios and/or the buddy system for continuous communication
- ◆ If at any time the employee entering a PERMIT-EXEMPT space loses contact with the attendant, the attendant *will not* enter the confined space and *will* call for emergency assistance.
- ◆ Training must be conducted as required by the standard
- ◆ If PERMIT-EXEMPT conditions change, the confined space will be reevaluated and possibly re-classified.

VII. CONTRACTOR'S ENTERING PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES

Employer must inform contractors working in permit confined spaces that they need to follow the permit requirements:

- ◆ Employer must apprise the contractor of the hazards
- ◆ Employer must apprise the contractors of any precautions
- ◆ Employer must coordinate entry operations
- ◆ Employer must debrief the contractor

VIII. POLICY ON NOT ENTERING CONFINED SPACES

When the employer decides NOT to have employees enter a confined space, the employer needs to prevent employees from entering. In the event employees will not enter, the employer must still comply with the following:

- ◆ Signage: DANGER – PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER”
- ◆ If there are changes in the confined space, it must be re-evaluated
- ◆ The employer must follow the contractor requirements of the standard

CONFINED SPACE ASSESSMENT & SIGNATURES

<u>Confined Space</u> Gymnasium/Stage Storage (Under)	<u>Hazard(s)</u> Limited Access	<u>Non-Permit OR Permit-Required OR Exempt-Permit</u> Non-Permit
---	---------------------------------------	---

The policy of this school district regarding the confined spaces identified above, is to limit entrance into any Permit-Required Confined Space. Each employee has been provided with a copy of this policy, and has been trained on the hazards associated with entrance into such spaces. All necessary work to be carried out in Permit-Required confined spaces shall be contracted to an outside firm. All Permit-Required Confined Space Signs (DANGER – PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER or similar language) and training shall effectively prevent employees from entering such spaces

Employees will access Non-Permit Confined Spaces only. It is the policy of this School District to notify a superior when a confined space will be entered. There will always be a confined space entry attendant available during the occupancy of the confined space with continuous communication line between the two.

As supervisor of the confined space program, I acknowledge that I have carried out the policy described above, and have so instructed all affected employees, as indicated by their acknowledgment below.

X _____
(Signature CS Supv) (Date)

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I hereby acknowledge by my signature below, that I have been told of where the confined spaces are at our facility and their classification.

_____ (Employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (Employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (Employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (Employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)
_____ (employee signature & date)	_____ (PRINTED Name)