

# Confined Space

## What is a Confined Space:

A confined space is a space that meets all three-(3) of the following criteria:

1. Large enough for a person to enter/exit.
2. Not meant for continuous human occupancy.
3. Has limited or restricted mean of entry or exit.

## Potential Risk/Hazard:

Employees could risk injury or death by entering confined spaces. These spaces could contain hazardous atmospheres, potential for entrapment or engulfment or other serious safety hazards.

## How to Minimize the Risk/Hazard:

By taking precautions such as sealing the entrances, identifying and labeling confined spaces, training employees and outside contractors, to prevent unauthorized entry into these spaces.

## Key Requirements for Compliance:

1. **Designate**
  - Assign a Confined Space Director.
2. **Inspect**
  - Conduct an initial inspection of the building and make a list of all confined spaces.
3. **Label**
  - Properly label all confined spaces at all entrances and exits.
4. **Plan**
  - Prepare and maintain a Confined Space Safety Plan.
5. **Training**
  - Provide employee training on confined spaces prior to initial assignment.
  - Provide periodic refresher training for employees entering confined spaces.

## My Employees **do not** Enter Confined Spaces:

1. **Prevention**
  - Take effective measures to prevent employee and outside contractor entry.
2. **Inform**
  - Inform outside contractors of the location of your confined spaces and any known hazards. Debrief the contractor about the space after their entry. The outside contractor is responsible for proper training of their employees.

## My Employees Enter Select Confined Spaces on a limited basis:

1. **Confined Space Meter**
  - Obtain and properly maintain a confined space meter (CO, O<sub>2</sub>, Explosive Gas and H<sub>2</sub>S) to test prior to entry and monitor during entry, the atmosphere in the confined space.
2. **Training**
  - Provide additional confined space entry training, CPR training and first aid training to at least two-(2) people (confined space entrant and attendant), which must both be present prior to entry.
3. **Checklist**
  - Complete a confined space pre-entry checklist/permit prior to entry.
4. **Contact**
  - Contact EMC for further assistance, information or with any questions.