



TOOLBOX TALK #14

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 14

CONFINED SPACES

In certain circumstances, we must deal with the unique aspects that exist with regard to confined spaces. A confined space is an area that is large enough and configured in such a way as to enable workers to enter and perform work, but which is not designed for continuous worker entry. An additional aspect of confined spaces is that they have limited or restricted means for entry and exit.

Only individuals specifically permitted in confined spaces may perform work in them, and these individuals are specified when permits are required. We must obtain permits if the confined space has potential hazardous gases, if there is a trap or burial exposure, or if there are other serious hazards that might exist due to machinery or equipment being used in the confined space. When faced with confined space situations, we will take the necessary precautions to prevent unauthorized entry and to implement procedures to minimize the associated risks. Some of these actions may include locking out electrical sources, conducting air sample tests, flushing and ventilating the space, maintaining environment control procedures and requiring additional personal protective equipment for authorized workers.

Do not enter into any confined space without proper authorization. If a permit is required, and you are not specifically named on that permit, you are not authorized to enter the confined space. Those of you who are authorized must be properly and thoroughly trained on all matters related to the space and the job requirements. It is important that everyone understand which confined spaces may be "permit required" and non-permit confined. If you have any question about such restrictions, do not enter the confined space. Be sure to ask first. In some cases, another subcontractor may be the responsible party. In any event, we will communicate all information about confined spaces on a job site.

If you have a question as to whether a task involves working in a confined space and you haven't been advised, please report this immediately and we will pursue the matter on your behalf, if necessary, and advise you further.

Facilitator Notes: If you have worked with a confined space situation in the recent past, use it as an example. Explain that special training may be required in some instances, such as with exposure to airborne contaminants, in order to ensure the safety of workers. Assure your crew that no one will be put at risk without all of the proper precautions and training in place.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet