



**Monthly Topic: Confined Space Entry**

- **Roughly 2 people won't make it home this week due to Confined Space Accidents.**
- Approximately 80-100 people per year have died in confined space related accidents at work in the USA. Of those accidents, 60% of these fatalities were would-be rescuers.
- **Definition of a Confined Space** (must meet all three criteria per OSHA):
  1. The Space is **LARGE** enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work.
  2. The space has limited or restricted means for entry or exit.
  3. The space is **NOT** designed for continuous employee occupancy.
- **Permit Required Confined Spaces** – any one of the following characteristics would require the space to be classified as a permit required confined space:
  1. Actual or potential hazardous atmosphere
  2. Contains material with potential to engulf entrant
  3. Configured to trap or asphyxiate entrant
  4. Contains other recognized serious safety or health hazard
- **Non-Permit Required Spaces** – a confined space that **DOES NOT** contain, or, with respect to atmospheric hazards, have the potential to contain any hazard capable of causing death or serious physical harm.
- **Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)** – is the level of exposure established as the highest level of exposure an employee may be exposed to without incurring the risk of adverse health effects. Most PEL's are based on an 8-hour period or Time Weighted Average (TWA).
- **Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL)** - the acceptable exposure limit to a toxic or an irritant substance over a short period, usually 15 minutes. STEL is the maximum concentration of a chemical (gas), which to which workers may be exposed continuously for a short period without any danger to health, safety or work efficiency.



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**Gas in the News**

- [Florida Accident](#)
- [Cutting Corners](#)
- [California Accidents](#)

**Learn More**

- [Confined Space FAQ](#)
- [OSHA Construction Code](#)
- [Industry Specific FAQ](#)

**Common Applications of Confined Spaces**

- |                           |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Tanks                   | ✓ Mixers                  | ✓ Utility Vaults     |
| ✓ Silos/Storage Bins      | ✓ Boilers                 | ✓ Pipelines          |
| ✓ Air Handlers            | ✓ Furnaces                | ✓ Crawl Spaces       |
| ✓ Ductwork                | ✓ Sewers                  | ✓ Compactors/Bailers |
| ✓ Smoke Stacks/Chimneys   | ✓ Lift Stations/Digesters | ✓ Septic Tanks       |
| ✓ Escalator/Elevator Pits | ✓ Truck Tankers/Tank Cars | ✓ Attic Spaces       |
| ✓ Storm Drains/Culverts   | ✓ Utility Tunnels         | ✓ Open Top Pits      |

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