



GOALS

This safety session teaches employees to:

- Implement confined space permit program requirements.
- Follow permit-required confined space precautions.

Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.146



1. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to test confined spaces for hazards.

- Confined spaces are tanks, vessels, and similar spaces large enough to work in, but difficult to get in and out of and not designed for continuous occupancy.
- Before a space can be entered, special instruments test for levels of:
 - Oxygen
 - Flammable gases and vapors
 - Toxic air contaminants
- Before employees can enter the space, breathing or fire hazards must be removed or controlled with ventilation, fresh air, flushing or other methods.

2. Permit-required confined spaces require detailed precautions.

- The employer must develop and use a written permit program.
- A written permit details conditions for working in the space.
- Workers are trained to work safely in and around the space.
- Warnings and barriers keep unauthorized workers away from the space:

DANGER: PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE—DO NOT ENTER

3. Only trained, authorized workers can perform confined space duties.

Employee training covers confined space hazards, signs of danger, safe work practices, communication methods, and rescue procedures.

- Authorized entrants are assigned and trained to work in a permit space.
- Attendants are stationed outside the space to maintain contact with and monitor authorized entrants.
- Entry supervisors determine if work conditions and confined space permits allow entry; and they authorize, oversee, and, when appropriate, stop work in the space.

4. Written confined space permits detail hazards and safety precautions.

Before beginning work, authorized entrants and attendants have to read the signed entry permit that must be posted at or near the space entrance. This permit covers:

- Reason for entering the space (e.g., repair work)
- Hazards of the space (e.g., design or shape of space, flammable atmosphere)
- Results of tests performed in the space
- Actions taken to remove or control hazards (e.g., ventilation)
- Acceptable conditions for entering the space
- Permit date and length of time the permit is applicable
- Names of authorized entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors



- Equipment employees must use in or around the space (e.g., communications, rescue, and personal protective equipment)
- Communication methods to be used by workers in and outside the space
- Available rescue procedures and equipment
- Any specific safety precautions and instructions
- Additional permits related to the job (e.g., hot work)

5. Testing and other precautions continue while space is occupied.

- An employee cannot enter a space with a hazardous atmosphere.
- Forced air ventilation removes hazards before entry and during work in the space.
- Atmosphere testing continues while the space is occupied.
- Employees must leave the space immediately if tests reveal atmospheric hazards.

6. Rescue and emergency services must be available when employees enter permit spaces.

Rescue team members must:

- Be trained in permit space hazards, rescue techniques, basic first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Have necessary personal protective equipment and rescue retrieval systems.
- Practice confined space rescues at least yearly.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Use a confined space entry permit and warning sign to illustrate this training session.
- Ask participants why they think OSHA requires such caution and detail for work in confined spaces.

CONCLUSION:

- Read and follow confined space permit requirements.
- Perform work in and around a permit-required space only if you're trained, authorized, and fully informed. Otherwise, obey warning signs and stay away.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Confined Space Permit Requirements quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand confined space permit requirements and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



CONFINED SPACE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS QUIZ

- 1. Confined spaces are tested for hazards before anyone can enter them:**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 2. There's no way for unauthorized workers to know which confined spaces may be hazardous.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3. Employees trained and authorized to work in and around permit spaces are called:**
 - a. Authorized entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors
 - b. Authorized entrants, communications specialists, and permit supervisors
 - c. Authorized entrants, guards, and supervisors
- 4. A confined space entry permit is posted:**
 - a. At or near the entrance to the building
 - b. At or near areas containing personal protective equipment
 - c. At or near the entrance to the space
- 5. A confined space entry permit contains information that includes:**
 - a. Training schedules for authorized entrants
 - b. Reason for entering the space
 - c. Where to file copies of the permit
- 6. Confined space entry permits are undated and good for an indefinite period of time.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 7. Authorized entrants learn about necessary personal protective equipment from the confined space entry permit.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 8. Employees can enter a space with a hazardous atmosphere as long as a permit is posted.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 9. While employees are working in a space:**
 - a. Instruments continue to test the atmosphere for hazards.
 - b. Atmospheric testing equipment is turned off.
 - c. Attendants make notes of any hazards identified by testing.
- 10. Training for confined space rescue team members must cover:**
 - a. Lockout/tagout procedures
 - b. How to write out a confined space entry permit
 - c. Rescue techniques, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: _____

Date: _____



ANSWERS TO CONFINED SPACE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS QUIZ

1. a. True.
2. b. False. The spaces are barricaded and posted with warning signs.
3. a. Authorized entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors.
4. c. At or near the entrance to the space.
5. b. Reason for entering the space.
6. b. False. They're dated and include length of time the permit applies.
7. a. True.
8. b. False. Employees can enter the space only when tests find the atmosphere is not hazardous.
9. a. Instruments continue to test the atmosphere for hazards.
10. c. Rescue techniques, first aid, and CPR.