

Confined Space

What is a Confined Space?

A confined space is an enclosed or partially enclosed space that meets *all* of the following criteria:

- ◆ It is not designed or intended for human occupancy, except for the purpose of performing work
- ◆ It has a restricted means of access and egress
- ◆ It may become hazardous to anyone entering it because of:
 - The design, construction, location, or atmosphere of the space
 - The materials or substances in it
 - Any other conditions relating to it



Health Hazards in a Confined Space

- ◆ Low levels of oxygen
- ◆ High levels of hazardous gases, fumes, toxic vapors, or dust
- ◆ Suffocation or entrapment due to shifting material
- ◆ Psychological distress related to being in a confined space

Entering a Confined Space

- ◆ Enter a confined space only when:
 - All power sources have been disconnected and locked out
 - Equipment has been locked out or blocked out — *remember to check all three areas: process, electrical, and mechanical*
 - All pipes and supply lines have been blanked off, drained, flushed, purged, and tagged
 - All sources of heat or sparks have been eliminated
 - Space is adequately ventilated



Confined Space *(continued)*

Procedures for a Safe Workplace

- ◆ Each *employer* must develop and implement written procedures for working safely in confined spaces
- ◆ Each *employee* involved in confined space work must:
 - Become familiar with the company's written procedures for working in a confined space
 - Be aware of the rescue procedures
 - Never enter a confined space that has not been purged and ventilated
 - Use personal protective equipment (based on the hazards) if entry *must* be made without purging and venting the confined space

