

	Confined Space Program	Effective:	February 06, 2006
		Originator	T. J. Kendrick
		Last Updated	February 06, 2006
		Updated by	T. J. Kendrick

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to familiarize people with the concept and precautions to be taken while working in a confined space.

2. Scope:

These guidelines apply to trained staff only.

3. Procedure

The campus Confined Space Entry Program is coordinated by the Safety and Security Department. Program requirements are outlined in the Confined Space Entry Program Employee Guide on the RUSVM SafetyWeb. All confined workspace on campus must strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth within this document.

Prior to conducting any confined workspace on campus, departments are required to have a written confined space policy in place. Properly trained employees will work in and around confined spaces, and appropriate calibrated instrumentation required for confined space entry.

OSHA defines a confined space as a space that has all of the three following characteristics:

- Large enough and configured such that an employee can enter and perform work
- Limited openings for entry and exit
- Not designed for continuous occupancy

Two main categories of hazards associated with confined spaces are atmospheric hazards and physical hazards. Atmospheric hazards typically involve problems with the air in the space, i.e. lack of oxygen, the presence of other gasses in the space, insufficient ventilation, etc. Physical hazards are those caused either by equipment (rotors, sparks, moving machinery, energized systems, etc.) or by other dangerous conditions (slippery surfaces, heat, noise, lighting, vermin, insects, etc.).

Examples of confined spaces include silos, tanks, vats, boilers, ducts, sewers,

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manholes, pipelines, vaults, bins, tubs, excavations, trenches, pits, wet wells, fireboxes, boxcars, and other confining structures.

Information Resources

RUSVM SafetyWeb.