



Occupational Safety and Health

Permit- Required Confined Spaced Entry Rescue Teams

[29 CFR 1910.146 (d)(k)]

A **Confined Space** is a space that is:

- 1) Large enough and shaped so that an employee can enter and perform work; and
- 2) Has limited or restricted means of entry or exit; and
- 3) Is **NOT** designed for continuous human occupancy.

A **Permit-Required Confined Space** is a space that meets the above definition of a confined space; and has one or more of the following:

- a) contains or **has the potential** to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- b) contains a material that has the potential to engulf the entrant;
- c) is configured that an entrant could become trapped or asphyxiated;
- d) contains any other recognized safety or health hazard.

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The employer **shall** develop and implement procedures for:

- ➔ summoning rescue and emergency services;
- ➔ rescuing entrants from permit spaces ;
- ➔ providing necessary emergency services to rescued employees;
- ➔ preventing unauthorized personnel from attempting a rescue.

Merely posting the service's number or planning to rely on the 911 emergency phone number to obtain these services at the time of a permit space emergency does not comply with the standard.

An employer who designates rescue and emergency services **shall**:

- ➔ evaluate a prospective rescuer's ability to respond to a rescue summons in a timely manner, considering the hazard(s) identified;
- ➔ evaluate a prospective rescue service's ability, in terms of proficiency with rescue-related tasks and equipment, to function appropriately while rescuing entrants from the particular permit space or types of permit spaces identified;
- ➔ select a rescue team or service from those evaluated that:
 - Has the capability to reach the victim(s) within a time frame that is appropriate for the permit space hazard(s) identified;
 - Is equipped for and proficient in performing the needed rescue services;
- ➔ Inform each rescue team or service of the hazards they may confront when called on to perform rescue at the site; and
- ➔ Provide the rescue team or service selected with access to all permit spaces from which rescue may be necessary so that the rescue service can develop appropriate rescue plans and practice rescue operations.

An employer whose employees have been designated to provide permit space rescue and emergency services **shall** take the following measures:

- ➔ Provide affected employees with the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to conduct permit space rescues safely and train affected employees so they are proficient in the use of that PPE, at no cost to those employees;
- ➔ Train affected employees to perform assigned rescue duties. The employer must ensure that such employees successfully complete the training required to establish proficiency as an authorized entrant.
- ➔ Train affected employees in basic first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The employer shall ensure that at least one member of the rescue team or service holding a current certification in first aid and CPR is available; and
- ➔ Ensure that affected employees practice making permit space rescues at least once every 12 months, by means of simulated rescue operations in which they remove dummies, manikins, or actual persons from the actual permit spaces or from representative permit spaces. Representative permit spaces shall, with respect to opening size, configuration, and accessibility, simulate the types of permit spaces from which rescue is to be performed.