



Refractories | Engineering | Construction

Confined Space Safety on Construction Sites

Your Top 10 Safety Tips

REDUCING RISK IN CONFINED SPACES

Over the years, confined space fatalities have been on the rise. To help reverse this trend, it is important to reduce risk when performing work inside storage tanks, boilers, furnaces, vaults, tunnels, or other confined spaces. The numbers tell us that trench collapses, atmospheric hazards, and falls account for half of all fatalities, and serve as a reminder of how important safety precautions and training are when working in and around confined spaces.

YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Identify the existence, location, and dangers posed by each confined space, monitor these for engulfment dangers and hazardous atmospheres
- 2 Post a hazard board or label such as "Danger - Confined Space" and "Restricted Entry"
- 3 Test the air in confined spaces for oxygen levels, flammable and toxic substances, and stratified atmospheres before workers enter the space
- 4 If the air is not safe for workers, install blowers, fans or other mechanical ventilation so that employees can work without hazard
- 5 Remove any liquids or free-flowing solids from confined spaces to eliminate the risk of drowning or suffocation
- 6 Authorized entrants must wear a chest or full body harness with a retrieval line attached to the center of their backs
- 7 Assign an attendant to remain outside the confined space to monitor the entry operation and to help during an emergency
- 8 Lockout all potentially hazardous energy sources such as electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal prior to confined space entry
- 9 Coordinate activities on multi-employer worksites so that hazards are not introduced into a confined space by workers outside the space
- 10 Only rescue-trained person may enter a confined space to perform a rescue

BONUS TIP: Be prepared, have at least one backup source of lighting, so if cord lights are used, the entrant should also carry a flashlight

4.8M

CONFINED SPACE ENTRIES
MADE ANNUALLY IN THE USA

11K

ANNUAL CONFINED SPACE
INJURIES IN THE USA

56%

ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS
CONFINED SPACE DEATHS