

Confined spaces can be deadly spaces

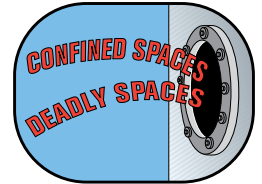
What is a confined space?

A confined space is an enclosed or partially enclosed area that is big enough for a worker to enter. It is not designed for someone to work in regularly, but workers may need to enter the confined space for tasks such as inspection, cleaning, maintenance, and repair. A small opening or a layout with obstructions can make entry and exit difficult and can complicate rescue procedures.

Accidents in confined spaces may be rare, but they can result in severe injury or death. Hazardous atmospheres such as toxic gases or lack of oxygen cause the majority of deaths in confined spaces. Physical hazards cause the remaining deaths. In the latter accidents, workers are crushed, struck by objects, or buried in materials.

In British Columbia, 18 deaths in confined spaces occurred over a 15-year period. Some of the incidents resulted in the death or injury of several workers, including those trying to rescue the first worker in distress.

Workers must not enter a confined space until hazards have been identified, workers are trained, and all procedures to eliminate or control the hazards are followed. A confined space entry program for your workplace will describe what needs to be done before workers can safely enter and work in a confined space.



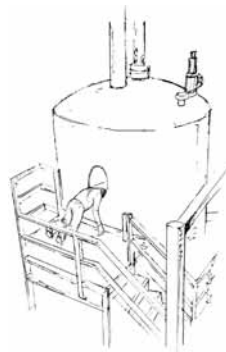
Confined spaces in your workplace

Examples of confined spaces that workers in municipalities and in the construction industry may encounter:

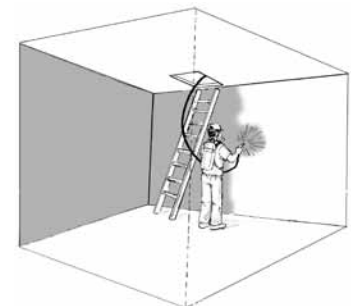
- Electrical, valve, utility meter, and motor vaults
- Boilers
- Water tanks and reservoirs
- Pumping stations
- Storage bins
- Pits and sumps
- Storage tanks
- Manholes
- Grit and sludge presses in sewage treatment plants
- Wet wells
- Other similar spaces



The flotation compartment of a barge is a confined space that may not have enough oxygen to sustain life.



This process vessel at a pulp mill is a confined space. One worker died inside the vessel from lack of oxygen, and another died with his head in the opening.



This water cistern is a confined space with limited access and ventilation. While a waterproof coating was being applied, flammable vapours were generated. The vapours ignited, and an explosion occurred. One worker died, and another was severely injured.

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number on shift: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by attendees:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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