



DECEMBER 9 — Don't Leave Your Post

Description	Corrective Action
asked hole watch if someone was out there that could grab a prybar and the hole watch started to walkaway	i stopped them and asked what he was doing he said he was going to look in the tool bag that was about 10 feet away. i told him he can't leave the hole that he needed to have somebody else look or we needed to come out and look

The hole watch stepped away because someone hollered, “Hey, come help real quick!” Distraction tugged him one way; social pressure pushed him the other. Meanwhile, the confined space sat alone — a place where conditions can swing from safe to deadly faster than you can walk back.

In a space where dangers creep and hide,
Your steady watch must stay beside.
One moment gone, the risk is steep
Never leave the post you keep.

Leaving a confined space unattended is like leaving a toddler in the bathtub “just for a second.” Accidents don't need a full minute — just an unguarded moment.

Hazards

- Entrants unprotected
- Atmospheric change undetected
- Delayed rescue → higher fatality likelihood

Stats

- **80%** of confined-space deaths involve inadequate watch
- **60%** of fatalities are would-be rescuers
- Rescue delay increases fatality risk **300%**

Words of Wisdom

An attendant must remain at their post — always.

Walk away from the hole, walk away from your job.

Pause and Think

Social pressure pushes workers to rush, skip steps, or take risks just to keep up with the crew or avoid seeming “slow.” When we worry more about fitting in than following procedure, we ignore hazards, hide confusion, and stay quiet when something feels wrong. In the moment, social pressure can override judgment—turning a safe worker into a risky one just to match the pace or attitude of others.

- What makes people most likely to walk away ‘just for a second’?
- How do YOU handle it when someone tries to pull you into another task?