



SHARP START



August 10 — Hope Is Not a Rescue Plan

No lifelines or harnesses for retrieving	Stopped work and brought up harnesses and life lines for the guys working inside the confined space
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The time to prepare for an emergency...

...is before anyone enters the space.

During a confined space entry, it was discovered that the required retrieval lifelines and harnesses were not available for emergency rescue. Although the work may have appeared routine, one critical layer of protection was missing. If an emergency had occurred, rescuing the entrant quickly and safely would have been much more difficult.

Confined space work is unique because emergencies can develop rapidly, often leaving workers unable to exit on their own. That's why rescue equipment isn't optional—it's an essential part of the job. Every entry should begin with the mindset that if something goes wrong, the crew is prepared to respond immediately without losing valuable time searching for equipment or deciding what to do next.

Good planning isn't about expecting something bad to happen; it's about recognizing that unexpected events can happen to anyone. Taking the time to verify that rescue equipment is available, inspected, and ready to use ensures that if the unthinkable occurs, the crew has the tools and plan needed to respond safely.

Hazards

- Confined space emergencies
- Delayed rescue response
- Lack of retrieval equipment
- Oxygen-deficient or hazardous atmospheres
- Entrapment or medical emergencies
- Increased risk to would be rescuers

Words of Wisdom

The best rescue is the one you're fully prepared to perform before anyone enters the space. Preparation saves time—and time saves lives.

Pause and Think

- If an emergency happened right now, do we have everything needed to safely rescue the entrant?
- Is all required retrieval equipment available, inspected, and ready for use?
- Does everyone involved understand their role during a confined space entry?
- What happens if we assume we'll "figure it out" during an emergency?
- What other jobs require us to have emergency plans in place before work begins?

Closing Thought

Confined space safety doesn't begin when someone enters—it begins with the planning, equipment, and preparation that happen beforehand. When it comes to rescue, being ready isn't optional; it's part of doing the job safely.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something