

## CONFINED SPACE ROLES

### AUTHORIZED ENTRANT

The entrant is the actual person that will enter the confined space to complete a task.

### ATTENDANT

The Attendant remains outside the confined space monitoring the safety of the Entrant.

### ENTRY SUPERVISOR

Determines acceptable safe entry conditions. The Entry Supervisor both authorizes and terminates entry into confined spaces.

### RESCUE PERSONNEL

The personnel designated to rescue employees from confined spaces.

## CONFINED SPACES DESIGNATED ROLES

A confined Space team will consist of:

1. Authorized Entrants
2. Attendants
3. Entry Supervisors
4. Rescue/Emergency personnel

### AUTHORIZED ENTRANT

**The entrant is the employee entering the confined space to complete a work task.**



Entry is defined as any part of the human body crossing the entrance threshold into the confined space. This may include a hand, a leg, the head, or the entire body.

**While other members of the task team may be exposed to injury during a rescue attempt, the entrant is the primary team member at risk.**

**It is important, and required, that the entrant be fully educated on the environment in which the work will be done, as well as on his responsibilities as the entrant.**

**OSHA-recognized responsibilities of the entrant are:**

- Wear personal protection equipment (PPE) appropriate for the work procedure as well as to address any safety hazards in the confined space.
- The status of the entrant will be monitored by an attendant. It is required of the entrant to maintain all necessary communication that will inform the attendant of his or her status.
- Recognize signs and symptoms of an impending potential injury. Having detailed knowledge of the hazards involved with a given confined space will allow the entrant to anticipate and respond to the onset of injury.
- Understand and recognize fail-safe alarms and notifications that would indicate the need to evacuate.
- Evacuate immediately in the event of an emergency, or should the attendant or supervisor issue an order of evacuation.

## ATTENDANT



OSHA defines “the attendant” as the employee who will remain outside of one or more confined spaces and monitor the conditions of the entrants.

The attendant will be fully informed on and trained in all procedures and potential hazards outlined in the permit.

Should the confined space require a permit, the permit will list and clarify the authorized methods of communication by which the attendant will remain in contact with the entrant.

## Safety Requirements for Confined Space Attendants

- Know the hazards and potential hazards.
- Maintain an accurate count of entrants.
- Remain outside the space until relieved by another attendant.
- Maintain communication with entrants.
- Monitor activities inside and outside the space.
- Warn unauthorized persons to stay away from the space.
- Summons rescue service or perform non-entry rescue per policy.
- Perform no other duties that may interfere with primary duty!

The attendant will remain outside of the confined space, prepared to give the order to evacuate should an emergency arise, and to engage rescue procedures or contact rescue personnel should the entrant be unable to evacuate.



Monitor activity within and outside of the confined space. You should be vigilant in recognizing the onset of a hazardous situation whether it manifests inside or out.

It is also the attendant's responsibility to keep unauthorized employees away from the confined space. If more than one entrant is involved in the procedure, the attendant will keep a steady head count in order to monitor entrants entering and exiting, and to have a consistent count of entrants within the space.

If an unauthorized employee enters the confined space, the attendant must order them to leave immediately and notify the entrant(s) and supervisor of the breach.

**As the attendant, monitoring the situation and environment within the confined space and its entrant is your sole and primary responsibility. You are not allowed to perform other tasks which will inhibit your ability to monitor and protect the entrant.**

## ENTRY SUPERVISOR

Are responsible for determining acceptable entry conditions. The entry supervisor must:

- Verify acceptable entry conditions are present prior to entry.
- Verify entry permit has been completed and is correct.
- Verify all tests required by permit have been conducted.
- Verify all procedures and equipment specified by permit are in place.
- Verify rescue service is in place.
- Authorizes and Terminates entry permit as required.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL

### Everyone involved with confined space work must:

- Know the potential hazards of the confined space entry.
- Signs, symptoms, and consequences of exposure to the hazard.
- Possible behavioral effects from exposure.
- Know how to use the PPE for entry and the
- Monitor activities inside and outside the space related to entry. limitations of the PPE.
- Exit space immediately at any sign of a prohibited condition or evacuation order.
- Keep unauthorized people out and away from the confined space.

### PREVENT CONFINED SPACE INJURIES

- Treat ALL confined spaces as hazardous.
- NEVER enter until air is tested and safe.
- Have safe and dependable communication between entrant and attendant.
- Know how to use all safety equipment required for entry.

OSHA Case Reference:  
Municipal Sewer Lift Station Fatality  
Date: May 16, 2017  
Location: Key Largo, Florida

Two municipal workers were assigned to work at a sewer lift station, a permit-required confined space. One worker entered the space and was overcome by a toxic, oxygen-deficient atmosphere. A second worker entered the space to rescue him. Both workers collapsed and died.

This case shows why confined space roles must be assigned and enforced before entry. There was no continuous attendant monitoring the entrant and no one controlling access to the space.

The attendant's role is to prevent unsafe entry and coordinate emergency response. They are not to enter the space.

This case demonstrates why entrant, attendant, and supervisor roles must be established and enforced before entry.