



## CONFINED SPACE ENTRY



### **A Confined Space Is Any Location That:**

- Is large enough for an employee to enter and work in
- Has limited openings for entry and exit areas.
- Is not intended for continuous employee occupancy.
- Presents a physical or atmospheric hazard.

Examples include tanks, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits, furnaces, tunnels, sewers, pipelines, crawl spaces, process vessels, or underground areas.

Confined space tasks include cleaning, painting, welding, scraping, performing repairs, or maintenance.

Confined space entry without proper precautions can result in injury, impairment or even death due to:

- Heat can build up and create the danger of exhaustion or heatstroke.
- A flammable or explosive atmosphere.
- Lack of oxygen to support life.
- Contact with or inhalation of toxic material.
- General safety or work area hazard.

### **Basic Controls**

- Engineering - Those that eliminate or reduce the hazard. One example would be forced air ventilation to remove the hazard or replenish the oxygen. To be effective, the ventilation must be continuous while employees are in the workspace.
- Work Practice (Administrative) - These also eliminate or reduce the hazard. Unlike Engineering Controls, this is accomplished through work practice changes (worker rotation to reduce worker exposure, and housekeeping). Only workers who have been assigned and trained to work in a permit space may enter a permit space.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - This should be used only if the first two controls are ineffective and the hazard cannot be eliminated or reduced. Someone who is trained in hazard evaluation and protection must determine the correct type of PPE.