SAFETY BULLETIN #8

August 18, 2024

Confined Spaces - Part 1

Confined Spaces



- ★ OSHA defines a confined space as any space meeting these 3 requirements.
    1. Is large enough for a worker to enter it,
    2. Has limited means of entry or exit, and
    3. Is not designed for continuous occupancy
- ★ A confined space may also be a **permit-required** confined space if it has:
    - The potential for a hazardous atmosphere,
    - The potential for engulfment or suffocation,
    - A layout that might trap a worker through converging walls or sloped/tapered floor (i.e. grain silo),
    - Or any other serious safety or health hazard
- ★ Essentially, the difference between a permit-required space and a non-permit required space is whether there are hazards inside.
- ★ Hazards may include toxic vapors, lack of oxygen, temperature extremes, poor visibility, drowning, difficulty exiting the space in the event of an emergency.
- ★ Typical confined spaces on Steep Creek jobsites are storm and sanitary sewer systems - water/sewer pipes, RCP, manholes, wet wells, meter vaults, lift/pump stations, and inlet/junction boxes.

Safe Entry Requirements for Non-Permit Required Confined Spaces

- ★ Prior to the start of construction, a Division Lead will evaluate the jobsite for confined spaces.
- ★ If a confined space is identified, it will be classified by the Division Lead as either permit required or non-permit required.
- ★ The Division Lead will work with the Project Lead to:
    - Identify the means of entry and exit, including fall arrest system (tripod, harness, lanyard, etc)
    - Identify and train individuals who will serve as attendant and entrant
    - Instruct team members on proper ventilation methods, fall protection, air-monitoring, communication, and rescue procedures
    - Test the air/atmosphere of the space prior to entry and relay findings to the crew via text, daily log, and/or Google chat. **Do not enter a space if results are outside of the acceptable limits**.
- ★ Prior to entry, construct a barrier around the space to prevent unauthorized entry. **An attendant must remain at the confined space entrance for the entire duration that the entrant is inside.**
- ★ For additional information, please refer to the “Confined Space Program” section of the Steep Creek Safety Plan.