

Confined Space Entry

COMPANY

PROJECT / LOCATION

DATE

PREPARED BY

Covers setup, air testing, entry, work, exit and closing up a manhole, vault or tank on a construction site, using an air monitor, a ventilation blower and a tripod with a retrieval line. Use it together with the employer’s entry procedures for the space, not in place of them.

Protective equipment

- Full-body harness compatible with the planned retrieval system.
- Hard hat for bumps at the opening and falling objects.
- Safety glasses with side shields.
- Work gloves suited to sharp edges and any chemicals found in the space.
- Work boots with slip-resistant soles.

Before you start

- Before work starts, have a competent person identify the confined spaces, decide which are permit spaces (spaces with serious hazards that need an entry permit) and test them as needed.
- Before anyone enters a permit space, confirm the employer’s written permit space program is in place at the site and available to the crew. Fill out the entry permit the program calls for.
- Instruct the crew on the space’s hazards, monitor alarms, ventilation, communication, how to get out and the rescue plan.
- Check the monitor, blower, tripod, harness and retrieval line before use. Confirm communication and rescue are set up before entry.
- Enter with the blower as the only control only if the employer can show that continuous ventilation alone keeps the space safe and that entrants can get out safely if it stops. Ventilation does not remove the hazards.

#	JOB STEP	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1	Set up and secure the entry area.	Workers or bystanders enter a dangerous space without authorization. An open manhole or tank opening exposes people to falls and falling objects.	- Post danger signs, or warn workers another equally effective way, that the space is a permit space and what its dangers are. - Put up barriers or post a guard so workers who are not authorized cannot enter. - Put a guardrail or barrier around the opening as soon as the cover is off. - Keep tools and loose materials away from the edge of the opening.

2 Shut off hazards and test the air from outside.	Liquid or material flowing in, or machinery that starts moving, traps or crushes an entrant.	- Remove or shut off and block sources of inflow and movement from outside the space, unless that is not feasible.
	Too little oxygen, toxic gas or flammable gas makes a worker pass out, poisons them or catches fire.	- If someone must go in to shut off a hazard, do it only as a permit space entry. - Test the air with the monitor from outside the opening before anyone enters. - Keep everyone out until the test results meet the entry permit limits. - Let each entrant, or their authorized representative, watch the air testing.
3 Position the blower and rig the retrieval system.	A badly placed blower pushes engine exhaust into the space or leaves bad air inside.	- Place the blower intake away from engine exhaust and other dirty air. - Run the duct to where people will work, without blocking the way out. - Use the monitor to confirm the ventilation is keeping hazardous air from building up.
	A tripod that tips or a tangled retrieval line keeps the crew from pulling out an injured entrant.	- Set up the tripod over the opening on firm footing, following the maker's instructions. - Test the winch and check that the retrieval line runs free before entry.
4 Enter the space using the planned access.	An entrant slips at the opening or becomes caught on ducting and lines.	- Keep the way in and out clear of obstructions. - Route monitor cords, ducts and lines so they won't snag. - Clip the retrieval line to the entrant's harness before going in.
5 Perform the authorized work and monitor conditions.	The air changes or the blower stops, and entrants breathe hazardous air.	- Keep the blower running the whole time anyone is inside. - Keep the monitor running the whole time anyone is inside. - Set the monitor alarm to warn every entrant, or have a worker check the readings often enough for entrants to get out in time. - Get out at once if the alarm sounds, the blower stops or conditions turn unsafe.
6 Exit, count the crew and close up the space.	Taking down the blower or retrieval line too early leaves an entrant in bad air or without a way out.	- Count everyone out before taking down any entry equipment. - Keep the blower, monitor and retrieval line in place until the last entrant is out.
	An open, unguarded hole lets someone fall in or go in without authorization.	- Put the cover back on and secure it, or keep barriers around the opening. - Leave the danger signs up while the space is still a permit space.

Stop work and call the supervisor if

- Do not enter, and call the supervisor, if the permit, hazard shutoff or rescue setup is missing or in doubt.
- Get out and call the supervisor if the monitor alarms, fails or reads outside the permit limits, or if the blower stops.
- Get out and call the supervisor if liquid flows in, equipment moves unexpectedly, or the radio or retrieval equipment fails.
- If someone passes out or cannot get out, start the rescue plan and call the supervisor. Do not go in after them unless you are part of the rescue plan.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.1203, General requirements; 29 CFR 1926.21, Safety training and education

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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COMPANY

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DATE

REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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