



Standard Operating Guidelines
Section 170.0

SECTION:		GUIDELINE:	
170.0		Confined Space Rescues	
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Confined Space Rescue

Definitions

Confined space: A confined space is any area or vessel, which meets all 3 of the following:

1. Is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter and perform work
2. Has limited means of entry or exit
3. Is not designed for continuous occupancy

Permit required confined space: A permit required confined space is defined as confined spaces which have one or more of the following:

1. Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere
2. Contains a material with potential for engulfment
3. Is so structured that an entrant could become trapped or asphyxiated
4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard – i.e. moving parts, noise

Recovery mode: Recovery mode is defined as situations where the victim is obviously expired or after a period of time during the rescue operation where time, conditions, or other factors have reduced the chance for the victim's survival to minimal.

Rescue mode: Rescue mode is defined as situations where the victim is believed or known to be alive. If this is unknown, personnel should operate in the rescue mode until time, conditions, or other elements make the chance for survival minimal.

Confined space rescue operations present a significant danger to fire department personnel. The safe and effective management of these operations requires special considerations and resources. Examples of possible confined spaces includes tunnels, sewers, tanks, process vessels, manholes, storm drains, furnaces, silos, and industrial spaces.

The Evansville Fire District functions at the AWARENESS level. Therefore it is the policy of the Evansville Fire District that personnel SHALL NOT enter into a confined space. Entry is defined as breaking the plane of the opening to the confined space.

Examples of activities and functions appropriate at the **AWARENESS** level include:

- Recognition of a confined space incident
- Recognition of confined space hazards
- Performing a **non-entry** retrieval
- Identifying resource needs
- Initiating response of operations and/or technician level personnel (Stateline Tech Rescue Team)

- Establishing scene control and management

Arrival On Scene

- A. A. The first-in unit should position the apparatus appropriately
- B. The first arriving officer should establish command and complete an initial size-up including:
 - 1. Secure any witnesses
 - 2. Obtain the confined space entry permit and any other available information
 - 3. Location, number, condition of victims, and length of time in confined space
 - 4. Utility and other scene hazards – i.e. hazardous materials, low oxygen levels
 - 5. Type of work being performed in the confined space
 - 6. Type of PPE being used by victim(s)
 - 7. Determination of rescue or recovery mode
 - 8. Determination of additional resources needed

Scene Safety

- A. Establish hot, warm, and cold zones (utilize barrier tape and natural boundaries)
- B. Ensure that unauthorized/untrained personnel do not enter the confined space
- C. Confirm or implement lock out/tag out

Incident Actions

- A. If victim is attached to a body harness and retrieval line, the rescuers may lift the victim from the confined space area
- B. Attempt to establish contact with victim(s)
- C. Establish atmospheric monitoring
- D. Establish ventilation of confined space after atmospheric monitoring
- E. If safe to do so and if it can be accomplished from outside the confined space, shutdown non-essential equipment that is located within the confined space
- F. Establish staging area for additional arriving apparatus and personnel

