

The Supervisor's Guide To
OSHA
REGULATIONS

today's
topic:

CONFINED SPACES



SAFETY MEETING SCRIPT

Confined Space Attendants Can Be Lifesavers

“Confined space work is dangerous. One of the best ways to protect confined space entrants is to post an attendant. An attendant is someone who is stationed outside a permit space who monitors the entrants and who performs a number of duties as assigned in our permit space program.

The truth is, being an attendant is a serious responsibility. The lives of the workers who enter a permit-required confined space may ultimately depend on the attendant. We do a lot of testing and monitoring to make sure our confined spaces are safe. However, things can happen. In the event of an emergency, an attendant can mean the difference between life and death.

Among an attendant's duties, OSHA requires several things that I'd like to talk about today. The agency requires that an attendant:

1. Knows the hazards that may be faced during entry, including information on the mode, signs or symptoms and consequences of exposure

2. Is aware of possible behavioral effects of hazard exposure on authorized entrants

3. Continuously maintains an accurate count of authorized entrants in the permit space and ensures that the means used to identify authorized entrants accurately identifies who is in the permit space

4. Remains outside the permit space during entry operations until relieved by another attendant

NOTE: When the employer's permit entry program allows attendant entry for rescue, attendants may enter a permit space to attempt a rescue if they have been trained and equipped for rescue operations as required by OSHA — and if they have been relieved, also as required by OSHA.

5. Communicates with authorized entrants as necessary to monitor entrant status and to alert entrants of the need to evacuate the space

6. Monitors activities inside and outside

the space to determine if it is safe for entrants to remain in the space and orders the authorized entrants to evacuate the permit space immediately under any of the following conditions:

- ✓ If the attendant detects a prohibited condition
- ✓ If the attendant detects the behavioral effects of hazard exposure on an authorized entrant
- ✓ If the attendant detects a situation outside the space that could endanger the authorized entrants
- ✓ If the attendant cannot effectively and safely perform all the duties required by OSHA.

7. Summons rescue and other emergency services as soon as the attendant determines that authorized entrants may need assistance to escape from permit space hazards

8. Takes the following actions when unauthorized persons approach or enter a permit space while entry is underway:

- ✓ Warns the unauthorized persons that they must stay away from the permit space

- ✓ Advises the unauthorized persons that they must exit immediately if they have entered the permit space

- ✓ Informs the authorized entrants and the entry supervisor if unauthorized persons have entered the permit space.

9. Performs non-entry rescues, as specified by the employer's rescue procedures

10. Does not perform duties that might interfere with the attendant's primary duty to monitor and protect the authorized entrants.

OSHA's Permit-Required Confined Spaces (PRCS) Standard requires you to use an attendant outside of every PRCS except:

- ✓ When, as per paragraph (c)(7) of 29 CFR 1910.146, all the hazards in the PRCS are eliminated

- ✓ When, as per paragraph (c)(5) of 29 CFR 1910.146, the only hazard in the PRCS is an actual or potential atmospheric hazard that can be controlled by continuous ventilation.

Thanks for your attention.

Have a safe day.”