

Montana Ag Safety Program



Confined Spaces

As defined by OSHA, a confined space is one that:

- Is large enough that one can bodily enter and configured in a way to perform the assigned task.
- Has limited/restricted entry or exit.
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy.

Examples include wells, grain dryers, feed mixers/grinders/wagons, underground vaults, tanks, storage/grain bins, pits, trailers, and silos.

Some spaces may qualify as “permit-required” if:

- The space contains (or has the potential to contain) hazardous atmosphere.
- A material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant.
- An internal configuration such that an entrant could become entrapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

When working in a confined space is unavoidable:

- Do not enter a confined space without proper training.
- Test oxygen levels, flammability potential, and presence of suspected toxic substances PRIOR to entering.
- Eliminate all pneumatic, hydraulic, and electrical energy sources through proper lockout/tagout procedures.
- Use adequate ventilation.
- Have a rescue plan in place.
- Ensure workers inside the confined space maintain contact at all times with a trained supervisor visually, by phone, or other communication device such as a two-way radio.
- Use appropriate equipment: fall protection, rescue, air-monitoring, lighting, and communication devices.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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