

## Confined Space

Recent Federal statistics state there are 238,853 organizations containing more than 4.8 million permit required confined spaces in the United States. There are an even greater number of non-permit required confined spaces throughout North America, such as crawl spaces, sump pits, and grain silos. These millions of confined spaces present engulfment or trapping hazards to employees both at home and the work place. Atmospheric hazards account for over 40% of the injuries and deaths caused by confined spaces. These hazards include low or high oxygen environments, flammable and toxic gases, and asphyxiant gases. Most of these gases are invisible to the naked eye and require testing equipment to evaluate. Bureau of Labor statistics from 2002 report an average of 20 fatalities per year due to confined space entries. More than half of those are caused from attendants attempting to rescue the entrant. Proper education on confined space procedures greatly reduces this risk, saving lives.

After successful completion of our 3 1/2 hour confined space course, students will be able to identify the most common causes of accidents in confined spaces, properly identify an OSHA defined confined space and the conditions of that confined space, how to identify situations requiring atmosphere testing, as well as implementing correct hazard elimination techniques. Attendant, entrant, entry leader/permit issuer, and rescue team responsibilities are discussed in detail to ensure the student is clear as to their role during confined space entry.

OSHA 1910.146, MIOSHA Part 90, 490, and 622