Confined Space Entry & Tunnel Safety Plan – Appendix G: Rescue Plans

Before employees enter a permit-required confined space, department managers must develop and implement procedures to remove entrants in the event of an emergency or when they are unable to evacuate without outside assistance. These procedures must include:

- The process for summoning rescue services;
  ***Note**: At a minimum, if a third party rescue service is being considered, the department manager must contact the service to plan and coordinate the evaluations required by the standard. Merely posting the service's contact information or planning to rely on the 911 emergency phone number to obtain these services at the time of a permit-required confined space emergency would not comply with the rescue requirements of these procedures.*
- The process for summoning emergency medical services or transporting injured employees to a medical facility;
- The process for providing a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or other similar written information for a hazardous substance to which an injured employee was exposed;

Department managers must ensure that rescue personnel can respond to a rescue call in a timely manner. Timeliness is based on the identified hazards of the space. Rescuers must be able to reach potential victims within an appropriate time frame based on the identified hazards of the permit space.

***Note:** When there are multiple entrants in a permit-required confined space, the department rescue plan needs to address how all entrants will be removed in a timely manner.*

Department managers must ensure that all rescuers, including non-entry, entry, and third-party, are knowledgeable in basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). At least one member of a rescue team must be certified in first aid and CPR.

***Note:** Additional medical training such as oxygen administration, the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and personnel decontamination should be considered.*

Rescuers must practice performing permit-required confined space rescues prior to entry and no more than 12 months before an entry

- Practice rescue must include every type of space in which the rescue team may perform rescues.
- The practice rescue must include removing persons, dummies, or manikins from the actual permit-required confined spaces, or representative spaces (simulated permit-required confined spaces) that have similar opening size, configuration, and accessibility issues as the actual permit-required confined spaces where rescue may be performed.
  ***Note:** Reliance upon "self-rescue" does not constitute an acceptable rescue program.*

Where feasible, use non-entry retrieval systems or methods whenever an authorized entrant enters a permit-required confined space, unless it would increase the overall risk to the entrant or would not contribute to the rescue of the entrant.

- **Non-entry Rescue:** Use a retrieval system that meets the following requirements:

  Each authorized entrant must use a chest or full body harness, with a retrieval line attached at the center of the entrant's back near shoulder level, above the entrant's head, or at another point which the department manager can establish presents a profile small enough for the successful removal of the entrant. Wristlets or ankle straps or other equally effective means may be used in lieu of the chest or full body harness if the department manager can demonstrate that the use of a chest or full body harness is infeasible or creates a greater hazard and that the use of other methods are the safest and most effective alternative.

  Attach the other end of the retrieval line to a mechanical device or fixed point outside the permit-required confined space so that rescue can begin as soon as the attendant becomes aware that rescue is necessary. Ensure a mechanical device is available to retrieve personnel from vertical type permit-required confined spaces more than 5 feet (1.52 meters) deep.

- **Entry Rescue:**

  Where non-entry rescue is not feasible or would increase the overall risk to the entrant, the department manager must designate a rescue team before employees enter any permit-required confined space.

  The department manager must ensure that the rescue team:
  - Can efficiently rescue employees from the permit spaces; and
  - Has the appropriate equipment to rescue employees from all permit-required confined spaces employees enter

  The department manager must inform each rescue team or service about the hazards they may confront when called to perform service.

  The department manager must provide the rescue team or service with access to all permit-required confined spaces from which rescue may be necessary.

  The department manager must provide rescue team members with personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for safe entry and any other equipment required to safely conduct rescues.

  Rescue team personnel must have the same training and proficiencies as a permit-required confined space entrant, attendant, and/or entry supervisor.

  When a third-party rescue service is used, department managers must ensure that the service is:
  - Aware that they so designated and agree to it prior to entry
  - Capable of performing all required rescue operations
  - Knowledgeable in first aid and CPR, and at least one member is certified in first aid and CPR.