



THURSDAY, 5/8/2025 TOOLBOX TALK:

CONFINED SPACES

Confined spaces are dangerous — and the hazards inside them aren't always visible. Toxic gases, low oxygen, or shifting materials can cause injury or death before there's time to react. Sadly, about 100 U.S. workers die each year in confined spaces — and most are people trying to rescue others.

WHAT'S A CONFINED SPACE?

A space is considered “confined” if it:

- Is large enough to enter
- Has limited ways in or out
- Is not meant for regular occupancy

Examples: Manholes, tanks, silos, pits, crawl spaces, vaults, and attics.

PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACES...

...have added hazards like:

- Dangerous atmospheres (low oxygen, toxic gases)
- Risk of being trapped or engulfed
- Other serious safety threats (heat, machinery, poor footing, etc.)

KEY HAZARDS INCLUDE:

- Oxygen levels below 19%
- Toxic/flammable gases or dust
- Tight entry/exit
- Electrical or mechanical dangers
- Extreme heat or cold
- Noise or communication issues

ACTION STEPS

- Know the confined spaces on your site
- Never enter without proper training, monitoring, and a permit
- Test the atmosphere before entry
- Use proper PPE and ventilation
- Have a rescue plan — and never go in alone

When in doubt, STAY OUT. Safety starts before you step inside.