TOOLBOX TALK #45



Working in a confined space

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Not knowing the dangers of confined spaces has

led to the deaths of many workers.

Why: The dead often include ill equipped rescuers.

Outline: This talk will cover hazards, before entry, work

in confined spaces and emergency procedures.

NOTES



Hazards

- Oxygen depleted or enriched environments.
- Presence of suffocating, toxic or flammable atmosphere.
- Actual or potentially hostile environment (inside plant).
- Biological hazards, Weil's disease from rat's urine.
- Confined spaces include cellars, chambers, pits, tanks, manholes, sewers, tunnels and some excavations.

Q: What hazards may be found in confined spaces?

Before Entering A Confined Space

- Do not enter a confined space until a risk assessment has been carried out by a competent person.
- Check for flammable or toxic gases and O2 content.
- If breathing apparatus is required do not enter a confined space until you are trained to use it. Obey Permits to Work.
- You must be fit and healthy to enter a confined space.
- Check communications and monitoring equipment.

Q: What must you check for before entering a confined space?

Working In Confined Spaces

 Work will be controlled by a Permit to Work which will include arrangements for rescue.

TOOLBOX TALK #45

Vital GRP

Working in a confined space

NOTES Wear protective equipment and clothing provided. Only BASEFFA approved electrical equipment is to be used where flammable gases may be present. Do not eat, drink, smoke or use naked flame or allow exhaust fumes in close proximity to point of Wash hands at the end of each shift. Q: Name three safety points regarding confined spaces? **Emergency Procedures** Make sure recovery winch and apparatus is working. Location position of nearest telephone and understand emergency procedure. Do not attempt a rescue without first raising the alarm and wearing breathing apparatus. The first duty of any rescuer is to ensure their own Leave confined space immediately if told to do so. Q: As a rescuer what must you be wearing? **Note to supervisor:** Now inform your workforce of the company policy regarding working in confined spaces. Do you have any questions for me? Questions for you **Q:** What areas could be classed as confined spaces? **Q:** Who should carry out an assessment of the confined space before entry? **REMEMBER:** DO NOT ENTER A CONFINED SPACE UNTIL THE RISKS HAVE BEEN ASSESSED

 $\textbf{Sources}: \ \underline{\textbf{Introduction to working in confined spaces - HSE}} \ \underline{\textbf{Confined spaces - HSE}} \ \underline{\textbf{Legislation - HSE}}$