Confined Space Entry Algorithm

Confined Space Entry Levels

Level C: Low level of risk to S&H, hazards controlled by Working Alone procedure, basic PPE. (Note: ‘Buddy System’ if entrance/extraction may require assistance).

Level B: Medium to high level of risk to S&H, requires documented entry permit, PPE, atmospheric monitoring, standby worker, etc., UM staff competent to do and required equipment available.

Level A: High level of unacceptable risk to S&H. Must be performed by external service providers specializing in CS work environment.

University work location is identified as a Confined Space

Is the purpose of the Confined Space entry routine or special entry?

Routine Entry (University workers only)
For inspection or regular light maintenance. No hazards introduced and risk levels not expected to change.

Has the confined space been evaluated?
(All available assessments and entry plans are stored in a database or a shared folder)

Yes

Worker follows the Level C Safe Work Procedures (check-in)
Worker follows Safe Work Procedures (buddy) if the assessment indicates a regular but awkward entrance/extraction or need for another worker to reduce level of risk

No

A CS Assessment is conducted by a staff familiar with the area, may include Physical Plant Supervisor, UM safety consultant (PP or EHSO)

Does the assessment indicate a low level of risk?
(minor restriction for travel, no or very limited exposure to hazards, ventilated, no atmospheric hazards, no specialized PPE, no specialized extraction for rescue, no fall, drown, or engulfment risks?)

Yes

Worker follows the Level C Safe Work Procedures

No

Does the CS Assessment indicate an entry plan free of a need for SCBA, SAR, standby Rescue Team, or any exposure to high risk hazards?

Yes

Follow Level B Safe Work Procedures
A new, documented CS Entry Permit is required for each entry. Use Appendix A Assessment

No

The Level A Confined Space Entry work must be contracted out to a External Service Provider specializing in Confined Space Work

See Level A Safe Work Procedures