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# Confined Space Program

**Paramount Media Networks  
2023 Update**





## **CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM**

A confined space refers to an area which is enclosed with limited access which can make it dangerous, especially if rescue of an injured worker is necessary. Confined spaces are areas that can be entered, but are not designed to be occupied continuously. All confined spaces can potentially pose unique problems for the employees that are required to work in them.

This program identifies potential confined spaces, and what to do if you should encounter them. Under no circumstances is an employee of Paramount Media Networks allowed to enter a permit required confined space, unless they have been formally trained.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

All confined spaces are divided into two categories:

1. Confined space
2. Permit Required Confined Space

A confined space has the following characteristics:

- Its size and shape allow a person to enter it.
- It has limited openings for workers to enter and exit.
- It is not designed for continuous occupancy.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

A permit required confined space has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant.
- Has an internal configuration such that a worker could potentially be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Confined spaces exist in many settings, underground and enclosed spaces are the most easily recognized confined space. Some examples of confined spaces are:

- Manholes / Sewers
- Tunnels,
- Wells Sub-cellars
- Tanks
- Storage bins
- Hoppers
- Underground utility vaults

Any space can be a confined space if it meets the conditions as stated previously, for example:

- Open Ditch



- Open topped vault
- Diked area
- Shafts
- Pits
- Trenches

**HAZARDS:** Some of the hazards of a confined space are:

- Lack of oxygen- It can cause a worker to collapse almost instantly.
- Toxic gases or vapors- These can poison or suffocate workers.
- Combustion- A buildup of flammable gasses or vapors can burn or explode.
- Heat- Can lead to heat stroke, exhaustion, or cramps.
- Noise- Which may be intensified in small spaces and interfere with communication.
- Chemicals- Such as irritating solvents, residue or scale in tanks.
- Engulfment- By liquids or finely divided (flowable) solids such as grain or sand.
- Inwardly sloping walls- Can trap a worker.

If the space meets any of the above stated conditions, it is probably a confined space. But, it is important to determine if it is a PERMIT required confined spaces. Whenever a potential confined space is identified, the Safety Director is charged with hiring a Certified Industrial Hygienist, or other qualified consulting firm, to conduct atmospheric testing which will confirm if a confined space is permit required or not. Testing will include:

- Oxygen Level
- Flammability
- Toxicity

If the atmospheric testing documents that a hazardous condition exists, which cannot be eliminated through the use of forced air ventilation, the confined space is a permit required confined space. If work must be done in any permit required confined space, a licensed qualified contractor must be employed that has an OSHA approved confined space entry procedure with a written program and permits.

### **SUMMARY:**

All work in confined spaces requires that an attendant be present at the entrance to the confined space at all times that worker(s) are inside the confined space. The attendant is responsible for monitoring the worker(s) inside the confined space and for implementing any required rescue plan. Under no circumstances may any Paramount Media Networks employee work alone in a confined space.

Under no circumstances will an employee of Paramount Media Networks be required to enter a permit required confined space, unless they have been formally trained and a full permit required confined space permitting system has been put in place. If any permit required confined spaces are identified, Paramount Media Networks must take steps to prevent their employees from entering the space. If any questions arise as to determining if a space is permit required or not, defer to the

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side of caution, the UPM or 1st AD should consult an Industrial Hygienist, or other qualified contractor, to make that determination.