

A confined space, by legal definition, is a space that meets the following conditions:

- Has limited or restricted means of access and egress.
- It is large enough for you to bodily enter the space and perform work and,
- It is not intended for continuous human occupancy.

Confined spaces present a special type of danger – a danger that you may not recognize until you’ve already entered a confined space and encountered the hazard. By then, it may be too late. Therefore, taking the necessary safety precautions in confined spaces will decrease the chances of injury or death. There are 10 critical factors you need to be aware of before entering a confined space and while in the confined space.

1. **Avoid entry:** If a job can be done outside of the confined spaces or may not be necessary at the time, avoiding the confined space is the safest thing to do.
2. **Monitor the atmosphere:** Most deaths are the result of atmospheric problems, so monitoring the toxin and oxygen levels should be done frequently.
3. **Ventilation:** With forced air ventilation, you can dilute and displace toxins in the air and create a safer environment.
4. **PPE:** Use the proper level of PPE if the hazards can’t be eliminated or controlled.
5. **Control & eliminate hazards:** Before entry all hazards should be eliminated or at least controlled. The elimination of the hazard is the most preferred method.
6. **Station an attendant outside the space:** There should always be a trained worker outside the confined space to monitor entry safely, help if there is an emergency and call for back up assistance.
7. **Be prepared for rescues:** If a rescue is needed, having the equipment and personnel ready and available is critical. The rescue team must be adequately equipped and trained to handle any hazardous situation.
8. **Establish good lighting:** Having proper lighting in a confined space is another major safety factor. If you can’t see what’s around you, its hard to perform your work.
9. **Have an emergency plan:** Accidents will happen, so it’s vital to be prepared having an emergency plan in place. Knowing the specific risks involved and then devising an emergency plan is an essential factor in confined spaces.
10. **Maintain constant communication:** Having effective communication is vital to any operation running smoothly. The outside attendant must maintain contact with the workers inside of the confined space. At the same time, workers should provide continuous updates to the attendant.

Remember This!

Before entering any confined space, you must test the atmosphere to determine if a hazardous environment exists prior to entering the space.





Tool Box Talk/Safety Meeting Sign In Sheet

Energy Efficiency Specialists™

Email to chris@hudsonbayins.com or safety@hudsonbayins.com or text to (206) 730-6273

Topic: _____ Date: _____

Discussion Leader: _____ Job Name: _____

	Employee Name	Employee Signature
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Employee Comments, Concerns, Suggestions or Recommendations to improve workplace safety & health:

Please submit this document immediately upon completion of the meeting to the safety department and retain the original copy of this document in the Safety & Risk Management Plan.