

## CONFINED SPACES

**PURPOSE:** This policy establishes guidelines to prevent injury to workers entering, exiting, and working in confined spaces.

### TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- A confined space is a space that meets the following criteria:
  - Is large enough and so configured that a worker can bodily enter to perform assigned work
  - Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit and
  - Is not designed for continuous worker occupancy
- A Permit-required confined space (PRCS): means a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics (It must meet only one of these conditions to be designated a PRCS.):
  - Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere
  - Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
  - Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard

### POLICY

- Each campus shall establish a confined space safety program. At a minimum, the program will address:
  - Confined space identification, evaluation and classification
  - A permit entry system
  - Testing and monitoring procedures
  - Roles, responsibilities and training
  - Rescue and emergency services
  - Provisions for coordinating contractor entry of permit required confined spaces
  - Program management and review
- Only qualified personnel shall enter a permit required confined space (PRCS).
- Permit PRCS shall be secured or posted with a warning to preclude unauthorized entry.
- Confined spaces that have not been evaluated or classified should be treated as PRCS until potential hazards have been identified, assessed and controlled.
- No entry shall be made where an environment immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) is known or suspected to exist. Circumstances creating the IDLH condition shall be eliminated prior to entry.
- If a contractor (non-MU entity) will be entering a PRCS on campus property, the contractor will be informed:
  - That the workplace contains permit spaces and that the contractor must comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations governing PRCS entry
  - Of the elements, including the hazards identified and the host employer's experience with the space, that make the space in question a permit space
  - Of any precautions or procedures implemented for the protection of MU personnel in or near permit spaces where contractor personnel will be working

**PROCEDURES & PRACTICES:** Refer to confined space procedural guide for details. If after reviewing you have any questions, please reach out to EHS for clarification.