

Confined Space Rescue Procedure

THE EMERGENCY RESCUE PLAN FOR EACH JOB MUST BE DISCUSSED, COMPLETED AND UNDERSTOOD PRIOR TO ENTRY OF THE CONFINED SPACE

NOTE:

If an emergency arises, the safety of the persons in the confined space is the highest priority regardless of the task being performed or the equipment being used.

All workers are to EXIT the confined space immediately, if any of the following situations occur:

- An alarm is indicated by either gas detector.
- Any worker experiences any of the following symptoms:
 - Headache
 - Nausea
 - Burning sensation in the eyes or throat.
 - Dizziness or any other symptoms that could indicate the presence of hazardous gases or chemicals in the confined space.
- The water level inside the confined space rises rapidly, e.g..., pipe/valve failure.
- The Standby Person must leave their position, e.g..., toilet break.

Any other hazard that arises during the entry of a confined space where there may be a risk to the safety of the worker(s) in the Confined Space.

In the event of a person collapsing or suffering an injury inside the confined space, the emergency procedures are as follows:

1. Contact the relevant Supervisor as soon as possible.
 - I. NO RESCUER SHALL ENTER A CONFINED SPACE TO ATTEMPT A RESCUE, WHERE THERE IS ANY RISK TO THE SAFETY OF THE RESCUER.
 - i. Rescuers must be trained in the safe entry of confined spaces.
 - ii. No unauthorised personnel are to attempt a rescue.
 - II. The Standby Person at the surface alerts other team members at the site of the incident.
 - III. The Standby Person must ensure that a delegated person has contacted Emergency Services.
 - IV. Note: When speaking to the Emergency Services, state the Employee's name, incident location, type of rescue required and address. Instructions from Emergency Services MUST be followed.
2. Rescuing the injured employee without rescuer entering a confined space:
 - I. The Standby Person winches the injured employee to the surface using the retrieval winch.
 - II. Note: Care should be taken not to injure the worker unnecessarily further during ascent by using excessive force. (the person could get caught on an obstacle).
3. Rescuing the injured employee with rescuer entering a confined space.
 1. Examples of this situation include:
 - a. Worker injured while detached from winch cable (and no gas detector alarm).
 - b. Worker caught on obstacle when being winched to safety (and no gas detector alarm).
4. The Standby Person must raise the gas detector to the surface and check for any alarm indication.
 - I. The BA usage board must be filled in by the Standby Person prior to the rescuer entering the confined space.

- II. If an alarm is activated only a Rescuer using breathing apparatus should enter the confined space to facilitate the rescue.

If no alarm is activated, lower the gas detector back into the confined space.

- The rescuer may descend the ladder and release the injured person from the obstacle or attach the winch cable to the person. The rescuer will then ascend the ladder, and the standby person can proceed to winch the injured person to the surface.
- When the injured employee is brought to the surface, the employee should be moved away from the access opening and placed in a safe area clear of the confined space opening. (This is done by firmly grasping their safety harness whilst still attached to the winch cable before releasing the employee from the harness attachment.)
- The medical condition of the collapsed or injured employee should be assessed by a qualified person and if necessary, CPR and/or First Aid should be administered as deemed necessary.