

330 TRAINING FOR CONFINED SPACE MEMBERS

PURPOSE:

To set minimum training requirements for department members who engaged in confined space entry operations.

SCOPE:

This procedure is applicable to all members.

DEFINITIONS:

Attendant - Someone who meets the Training requirements under this section and who is responsible for monitoring the atmosphere of the confined space and overseeing operations of entry members.

Confined Space - an area: not designed for continuous human occupancy; has limited access; may have poor or no ventilation; may or may not be located below grade; and where the atmosphere may be toxic, oxygen deficient or flammable.

Examples: wells, pits, sewers, boilers, vats, silos, bins, manholes, etc.

Confined Space Entry Team Member - Someone who is trained as a confined space entry team member under this section.

Entry - the physical entry of the confined space by team members for the purposes of rescue or emergency work.

Qualified Incident Commander - A person who has met the training requirements as outlined in this section that is responsible for managing the incident.

S.C.B.A. - Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (INITIAL):

All confined space entry team members must have a minimum of 8 hours of approved training in the area of confined space.

The approved training shall include:

Classroom training covering the following areas:

1. Review of the Act, its purpose and how it affects employees.
2. The development of written procedures on Confined Space Entry into sewers, wet wells, etc.
3. Review equipment necessary for Confined Space Entry; such as personal protective equipment, lifeline harness and meters.
4. The use of S.C.B.A. as provided in **section 311**
5. The hazards associated with Confined Space Entry
6. Entry permit system: why it is necessary and what it means to the employee and employer.
7. Rescue operations in Confined Space Entry

Practical hands-on training covering the following areas:

1. The use of meters and equipment associated with Confined Space Entry.
2. Stressing the "Buddy System" explaining that no one should enter confined spaces alone.
3. Practice in removing simulated or real people through representative openings or portals having the same size, configuration and access ability as the confined space from which the actual rescue would be required.

Every participant must pass a written test as approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners or their designee to determine if he/she has a clear understanding of Confined Space Entry Procedures **BEFORE** engaging in any Confined Space Entry Operations.

MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUOUS):

Confined Space Entry Team Member

Every confined space entry members must attend approved continuous educational classes and drills in order to maintain a professional level of competence in the area of confined space entry operation. This training will include a minimum of one classroom session a year and one hands-on drill per year. These drills will be designed to review the key safety concepts as outlined in “MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (INITIAL)”.

ATTENDANT

A Confined Space Entry Member who may be assigned the position of attendant must complete the following training on a yearly basis;

- a minimum of two classroom sessions and one hands-on drill per year.
- the additional classroom session will cover safety procedures for the Attendant who will be responsible for the safety of the entry team, monitoring the atmosphere of the confined space, controlling the opening, and coordinating the actions of the back-up team if necessary.

QUALIFIED INCIDENT COMMANDER

The Qualified Incident Commander who will be responsible for managing the Confined Space Entry Operations will meet those minimum requirements as outlined for an attendant. In addition, he/she must complete any other training that may be required as determined by the Training/Safety Officer.

ENFORCEMENT

It will be the responsibility of the training/safety officer to supply the Chief with the appropriate documentation that will be maintained in the confined space entry member’s file.