

VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

June 2017

Subject: Confined Space

Date: _____

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: _____

Name

Employee

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The hazards of working in confined spaces are often not recognized until it's too late. For example:

- Four workers died from hydrogen sulfide poisoning in a sewage holding tank.
- A worker was killed by carbon monoxide gas from a gasoline-powered pump used to drain a pit.
- A worker was caught in a mixing tank which was inadvertently started while he was inside.

"Confined space" means a fully or partially enclosed space...

- that is not both designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy, and
- in which atmospheric hazards may occur because of its construction, location, or contents, or because of work that is done in it.

Sewage-handling and water-treatment plants include various kinds of confined spaces, from settling and holding tanks to maintenance holes and wells below floor level.

In general construction, confined spaces include vaults, maintenance holes, tanks, and other spaces that meet the criteria of the definition.

Physical hazards such as live electrical conductors, operating equipment, stored energy, pressurized pipes, noise, and heat sources must be controlled in confined spaces through lock out/tag out. You must also control other dangers, including those you may introduce into the space by the work being performed. Such hazards include hazardous dusts, chemical vapors, engine exhaust, and welding fumes.

Other spaces that don't fall under the definition of confined space but need to be assessed and controlled include:

- Trenches and excavations
- Basements
- Small rooms

These spaces must be adequately ventilated to ensure hazardous materials and atmospheres are not present and do not accumulate from the work being performed. Workers have been overcome and killed by solvent and adhesive vapors in small, poorly ventilated rooms.

Identify confined spaces on the project with the crew. Discuss potential dangers before you or anyone enters one.

VTTC
SAFETY