



Program Name: Confined Spaces Safety		
Origination Date: 11/01/07	Revision Date: 11/23/21	
Author: Mike Whitford	Revision No.: 002	Page 1

Confined Spaces Safety

1.0 PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

To establish confined spaces safety procedures for Pitt County Schools. The North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requires employers to institute protection measures when an employee is engaged in work involving confined spaces.

2.0 SCOPE

All Pitt County Schools employees.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Program Directors, Site Managers, and Principals

Responsible for the oversight and adherence of all employees to the Confined Spaces Safety program.

3.2 Assistant Director of Facility Services

Responsible for evaluating and revising this procedure annually or as regulations change.

3.3 Employees

Responsible for abiding by this procedure.

4.0 INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Pitt County Schools will only work in non-permit required confined spaces. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to check the space prior to beginning work to ensure that hazardous conditions do not exist. This includes monitoring for combustible gases, oxygen level, toxic gases, and any other potential unsafe condition. If conditions change, work will immediately stop and not resume until all unsafe conditions have been eliminated.

4.2 If permit-required conditions exist, Pitt County Schools will contract the work out to an approved contractor. It is the responsibility of the contractor to follow all pertinent OSHA regulations for permit-required confined space work.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Confined Space – Any space which has limited or restricted means of entry or exit, is large enough for an employee to enter and perform assigned work, and



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is not designed for continuous occupancy by the employee. These spaces may include, but are not limited to:

- Underground vaults
- Crawl Spaces
- Manholes (Utility, Sewage)
- Tanks
- Pits and diked areas
- Boilers

5.2 Permit Required Confined Space – A confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere,
- Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant,
- Has an internal configuration that might cause an entrant to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section, and/or
- Contains any recognized serious safety or health hazards

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration. **Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry: 1910.146, Permit-Required Confined Spaces.** Raleigh, NC: N.C. Department of Labor.