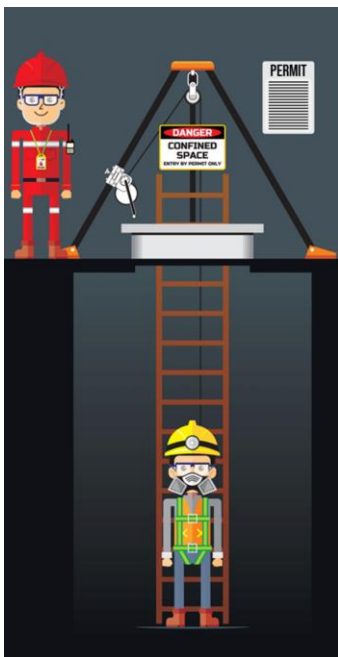


A rescue plan must be created and implemented to ensure everyone at the job site is prepared in advance if there is an emergency in a permit-required confined space.

OSHA Standard 1910.146(d)(9) *The employer shall develop and implement procedures for summoning rescue and emergency services, for rescuing entrants from permit spaces, for providing necessary emergency services to rescued employees, and for preventing unauthorized personnel from attempting a rescue.*

Whenever a worker is in a permit-required confined space, there must be an attendant outside the space who must maintain communication with all entrants and keep track of their condition.

- If any entrant suffers an injury or illness and is unable to exit the space without help, the attendant will initiate a rescue.



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- Confined space rescue responders must be capable of responding to an emergency in a timely manner.
- Rescue service personnel must have personal protective and rescue equipment, including respirators, and should have received training on using the equipment.
- All rescuers should be trained in first aid and CPR, and at a minimum one rescue team member must be currently certified in first aid and CPR.
- Practice rescue exercises should be conducted annually. Rescue services should be provided access to permit spaces so they can practice rescue operations.
- Rescuers must always be informed ahead of time of the hazards of the confined space they may be entering.

Calling on local emergency responders to provide rescue services can be a suitable way of providing for rescues in a permit-required confined space.

- Pre-planning will ensure that the emergency service is capable, available, and prepared.



It is always preferable to perform a non-entry confined space rescue, if possible.

- The non-entry rescue avoids having additional personnel exposed to the hazard that caused the injury or illness.
- Rescue procedures must provide for non-entry rescue using retrieval equipment unless the retrieval equipment would increase the overall risk of entry or would not contribute to the rescue of the entrant.
- When non-entry rescue is an option, before the confined space work begins, confirm that emergency assistance will be available if the non-entry rescue fails.

When non-entry rescue fails, or is not feasible, trained rescuers must enter the confined space to perform the rescue.

- The rescuers may be an on-site rescue team, or an off-site rescue team that have been notified in advance and are able to get to the job site quickly.
- If the attendant is part of the entry rescue team, a new attendant must be in position before the original attendant enters the space.

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