

# TECH. RESCUE – CONFINED SPACE

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS: TRT PLAN ALSO AVAILABLE

- Ashland Fire & Rescue maintains the regional Confined Space rescue resources.
- Breaking the horizontal or vertical plane with any part of your body constitutes entry.
- Get a Confined Space permit filled out ASAP. The BC vehicles carry them.
- Try to reclassify the space if possible.
- Many Confined Spaces are also HAZMAT scenes.
- Documentation is key. Get a response plan and paperwork from the Battalion Chief.

### A Confined Space:

- Is large enough for an employee to enter fully and perform work **AND**
- Is NOT designed for continuous occupancy **AND**
- Has a limited or restricted means of entry and exit.

A **PERMIT-REQUIRED** Confined Space has **ONE or MORE** of the following:

- Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- Contains material with potential to engulf the entrant.
- Has internal configuration that might cause someone to become trapped or asphyxiate by inwardly sloping walls or by a floor that slopes or tapers.
- Contains any other recognized safety or health issue.

### PROTOCOL:

1. Provide Arrival Report and assume command.
2. Identify the exact location of the Confined Space and determine:
  - a. What is the space used for?
  - b. Is there mechanical or electrical systems in the space?
  - c. How many victims do we have and what is their status?
  - d. Potential access points.
  - e. Any easy solutions?
  - f. Request specialty equipment from Ashland Fire & Rescue and make TRT / HAZMAT call-out if necessary.
3. **Initial Actions:**
  - **Position all apparatus at least 100 feet from the rescue location.**
  - **Locate and keep handy a facility expert.**
  - **Locate on-site Confined Space permit if one exists.**
  - **Start Lock-Out / Tag-Out. See Lock Out/Tag Out protocol.**
  - **If safe to do so, begin remote air monitoring inside the space. Improve air quality as needed.**
4. **Take any possible steps to reclassify the space whenever possible.**

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## 5. Initiate rescue operations:

- a. Confirm mode (rescue or recovery).
- b. Complete entry permit.
- c. Establish a safety officer.
- d. Complete Lock Out/Tag Out.
- e. Verify rescue effort is within equipment and personnel capability.
- f. Request specialty equipment ASAP (**see Public Works protocol**).
- g. **ONLY certified and properly equipped members of a rescue team will enter the space.**
- h. Monitor air throughout the incident.
- i. Perform ventilation of space.
- j. Perform rescue or recovery.

## 6. FIRST ARRIVING Confined Space Technician report to IC and assume RESCUE GROUP LEADER.

