

# STAY SAFE WITH SOCIETY



## CONFINED SPACES

Confined work spaces can be very dangerous. You can be at risk of being overcome by gases, buried by material, or unable to breathe sufficient oxygen when entering a confined area such as a sewer hole, tank, tunnel, manure pit, silo, grain bin, utility vault, boiler, piping, cooker, dryer, vat, access shaft, stack, trailer, tank car, sump, hopper, culvert, sewer, or other confined areas that may not have enough ventilation.

Gases that build up or processes that consume or displace oxygen can quickly kill an unsuspecting worker. Employers have the primary responsibility for protecting the safety and health of their workers. Employees are responsible for following their employer's safe work practices.

- Be aware that there is always a danger of gases or an oxygen deficiency in confined spaces. Make sure you are trained to use all safety equipment.
- Never enter a confined space without:
  - Confirming the space has sufficient oxygen and is not an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
  - Verifying that it has been ventilated.
  - Posting a second person outside the area that you can communicate with by sight, sound, or signal line.
  - Wearing a safety harness attached to a hoist.
- Have rescue equipment (ropes, ladders, lifts, and a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) respirator) available in case someone is overcome by gas. Get training in how to safely perform a rescue.
- If an area cannot be ventilated, wear a correctly fitted and approved SCBA respirator.
- Never attempt to rescue someone who has been overcome by fumes in an area unless you have been trained and are wearing a SCBA-equipped respirator.

**EMPLOYERS ARE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
PROTECTING THEIR  
WORKERS AND  
EMPLOYEES ARE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
FOLLOWING SAFE  
WORK PRACTICES.**

A Small Detail  
That Can Make a  
Big Difference.

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This information is advisory, and it must not be assumed that it has detected all unsafe acts or conditions. This information is designed to assist you in recognizing potential safe work problems and not to establish compliance with any law, rule or regulation.

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