

Iowa County, Iowa
Policy Manual

Title: Confined Spaces	Reference #: SA004
Section: Safety	Date Effective/Revised: 7/1/2016
Department (s): All	Approved By: Board of Supervisors

Purpose

This program was created to ensure the safety and health of our employees while performing tasks that require entry into areas defined as confined spaces. Although Iowa County does not encompass any Permit Required Confined Spaces, all of our procedures and policies were prepared in accordance with OSHA regulation Section 1910.146 Permit Required Confined Spaces Entry Procedures. The entire report can be found at https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9797. Copies of this program will also be located at each work site where confined spaces have been identified including temporary maintenance and construction sites.

Definitions

Confined Space – is one that:

- (1) Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work.
- (2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (examples: tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits).
- (3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Entry – the action by which a person passes through an opening into a permit-required confined space. Entry includes ensuing work activities in that space and is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the entrant’s body breaks the plane of an opening into the space.

Entry Supervisor – the person (supervisor, foreman, crew chief) responsible for determining if acceptable entry conditions are present at a permit space where entry is planned, for authorizing entry and overseeing entry operations and for terminating entry as required by this section.

****For a complete listing of all definitions refer to OSHA regulation Section 1910.146(b).***

Hazardous Communications

If hazardous substances are present in the confined space during entry (example cleaning chemicals), a copy of the applicable Safety Data Sheet for the substance must be available at the entry site.

Buddy System

Iowa County employees will require that at least one employee will be directly outside of the confined space visualizing the employee who has entered the confined space at all times.