



WHAT IS CONFINED SPACE?

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – CONFINED SPACE

January 2023

Confined spaces are present throughout Town of Perinton Facilities. While some spaces are obvious like manholes and equipment, there are some that are less obvious. It's important that all employees recognize confined spaces, and understand the hazards that they present.



Definition

Confined Space – A space that is large enough for an employee to enter, has limited means of entry or exit, and is not designed for continuous employee entry.

Can you think of a few in your work area?

HAZARDS OF CONFINED SPACE

- **ATMOSPHERIC** – Oxygen concentrations below 19.5% or above 23.5%, flammable gases exceeding 10% of the lower explosive limit, atmospheres exceeding the OSHA permissible exposure limit, and airborne combustible dust that obscures vision 5ft or less.
- **CONFIGURATION** – Internal configurations that could entrap or suffocate an entrant (think hoppers and tanks).
- **ENGULFMENT** – Where there is a potential for liquid or solids to drown or suffocate an entrant
- **OTHER HAZARDS** – Extreme temperatures, electrical hazards, mechanical hazards, chemical hazards, steam hazards, poor lighting, etc.

“SAFETY ISN'T EXPENSIVE, IT'S PRICELESS” – Author Unknown