

<b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>	NO: 04-04-02
Scriba Volunteer Fire Department Scriba, NY	Date: 04/15/2017
Topic: Operations	Page <b>1</b> of <b>3</b>
Title: CONFINED SPACE RESCUE	Revision: 0                      Date:

## **BACKGROUND & DEFINITIONS**

Scriba Fire Department units may encounter confined spaces of many different types, shapes, and sizes. Most of these are easily recognized as a confined space but some are not (i.e. open tanks or pits) Therefore it is imperative for SVFD units to approach and deal with a confined space incident with caution, common sense, and the guidelines outlined here.

**Confined Space-** A space that possesses the following characteristics:

- Is large enough for an employee to bodily enter and perform assigned work
- Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit
- Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy

**Permit Required Confined Space** is a hazardous confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Contains (or has a known potential to contain) a hazardous atmosphere
- Contains a material with the potential for engulfment of an entrant (i.e. sand, coal)
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls, or a floor which slopes downward
- and tapers to a smaller cross-section (i.e. hopper)
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard

## **SIZE-UP**

**DO NOT** enter the confined space (breaking the plane in the opening is considered entry). This is what gets most rescuers in trouble.

- Dispatch the following to all possible confined space emergencies:
  - 2762 with 2775, 2721
  - Oswego County Technical rescue team
  - Oswego County mobile cascade (38mc1)
  - Menter Ambulance
- Request any other resources as needed (i.e. Phone/Power Company)
- Identify whether or not the space is a Permit-Required or Non-Permit Space, following the criteria listed above. The SVFD Confined Space Rescue Permit is located in the clipboard on 2775.
- Test atmospheric conditions of the space, test in the following order:
  - Oxygen levels
  - LEL
  - Other Toxic gases

### ***Non-Permit Spaces***

If it is determined that the confined space is a non-permit space, proceed with caution in performing the rescue.

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## *Permit Required Spaces*

### **Initial Response Personnel**

- Use and completion of the SVFD Confine Space Rescue Paperwork is mandatory, prior to entry. (Found in the ICS clipboards)
- Use the Permit as both a guide and checklist to assist with walking you through the procedures necessary to safely and effectively handle a confined space rescue.
- Obtain the confined space Entry Permit. This is the permit that the contractor should have had to work in the space.
- Contact attendant / entry supervisor
- Limit access to the area.
- Establish control zones
- Attempt to find out as much victim information as possible.
  - Number of victims
  - How long they have been unaccounted for.
  - Their specific location inside if possible.
  - What type of protection i.e. half mask, supplied air respirators?
- Identify the confined space hazards.
- Testing for atmospheric hazards should be done at several locations.
- Identify other known or possible physical hazards (i.e. sand, grain).

## **II. Rescue / Entry**

### **1. Make the confined space safe for entry (isolate from hazards)**

- Atmospheric testing - reading should be every 5 min, must maintain a log of readings.
- Ventilation as needed
- Lock-out / tag-out
- Disconnect machinery that might cause entanglement or injury.
- Barriers / surrounding area so no one inadvertently falls.

### **2. Designate Personnel**

- *Entrants:* Select two entrants, if confined space allows
- *Back-up rescue team:* for each primary rescuer there needs to be a back-up rescuer
- *Attendant:* monitors the entry into the confined space and stays in communication with the entrants

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### **3. Equipment / PPE**

#### *Respiratory protection*

- The use of respiratory protection is mandatory if testing indicates a potential IDLH atmosphere. This protection can be either in the form of SCBA or supplied air respirator. The use of air purifying respirators will not be allowed.

#### *Fall protection*

- Fall protection in the form of a class 3 harness shall be used whenever personnel may be subject to a fall greater than 6 feet. This includes working within 10 feet of an unprotected edge.

#### *Lifelines*

- Lifelines shall be mandatory for all confined space entries. This may include the use of a single life safety rope when used as a tag line in a horizontal environment.

#### *Two Line System*

- A primary line will be used to raise/lower personnel into a vertical space
- A second tag line shall be attached as a safety. This line shall not be removed

#### *Communication equipment*

- Communication is mandatory for all entries. This communication can be in 3 forms:
  - Visual using hand signals
  - Verbal using unamplified voices
  - Tag line using the oath method.
    - OK-                      1 tug on rope
    - Advance-            2 tugs on rope
    - Take back-         3 tugs on rope
    - Help-                 4 tugs on rope

### **4. Personnel Awareness**

#### *Pre-entry briefing*

A brief pre-entry meeting to discuss the rescue plan shall take place. This meeting will include:

1. location/ condition of victims
2. Hazards that exists in the space
3. Victim recovery plan
4. Emergency actions in the event the rescuer becomes unable to self-rescue

#### *Record keeping*

1. Time of rescue team entry
2. Monitor air supply levels
3. Maintain log on atmospheric testing

### **5. Authorization**

Before entry is made, command must sign the emergency rescue permit. The permit can only be signed after all necessary steps have been taken to ensure the overall safety of rescue personnel. After the incident the rescue permit and entry record log must be attached to the completed incident report.