

1. CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

1.1 PURPOSE

Nova Southeastern University has developed and implemented a Confined Space Entry Program to protect all University employees who are required to enter confined spaces. This program defines a “Confined Space” in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.146 and 1910.269.

OSHA uses the term “confined space” to describe such spaces that meets all three of the following characteristics:

- limited openings for entry and exit
- unfavorable natural ventilation
- not designed for continuous worker occupancy.

It is the Contractor’s responsibility to develop, implement and maintain a rigorous Confined Space Health and Safety program including provisions for emergency rescue, in accordance with all regulations. To inform Contractors of their responsibilities when performing confined space entry activities at the University.

1.2 ACTIVITIES

Workers must be protected from toxic, explosive, engulfing or asphyxiating atmospheres when working in and around confined spaces.

NSU has identified confined spaces throughout its facilities and labeled each confined space stating whether the space requires a permit for entry or not. NSU will notify the Contractor of the confined space locations and whether entry will be required as part of the contract. A permit will be required for permit-required confined spaces and obtained from the EH&S office.

Types of confined space entries include, but are not limited to:

Storage tanks	Manholes	Tanks
In-ground vaults	Valve pits	HVAC systems
Boilers	Crawlspaces	Lift stations
Trenches	Injector pits	

1.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Contractors must adhere to the following requirements:

- 1) Contractors who will be required to enter NSU confined spaces must demonstrate to NSU that they have a comprehensive written confined space entry program.
- 2) Contractors must provide their employees with confined space entry training according to their duties (entrant, attendant, entry supervisor, and rescue team) and submit documentation of this training to the EH&S office.

- 3) Contractors must supply their own atmospheric testing equipment which must be in good working condition and calibrated within the last 12 months.
- 4) Contractors must supply their own safety equipment, including but not limited to full body harnesses, mechanical retrieval devices, PPE and ventilation which must be in good working order and inspected per the manufacturer's guidelines.
- 5) Contractors shall provide no less than two employees for any confined space entry with one employee on the outside of the confined space at all times.
- 6) Contractors must have a plan for emergency rescue services prior to entry.
- 7) The Contractor must arrange for the appropriate level of rescue services based on the potential for the types and severity of the rescue that may be required.
- 8) Prior to conducting work in a Permit-required confined space, the Contractor must obtain a permit and NSU will provide the Contractor with all information related to the known or anticipated hazards of the confined space.
- 9) Upon completion of the confined space entry, the Contractor will notify the EH&S office on any unexpected hazards that were encountered which can be entered on the Confined Space Permit.
- 10) During the course of work by the Contractor, if a confined space is encountered that has not been previously identified by the University. The Contractor must immediately notify the EH&S officer and delay enter until NSU has examined the space.
- 11) When both University and Contractor personnel are working in or near confined spaces, the Contractor shall coordinate all operations with the affected University employees before entry.
- 12) On occasions an activity to be performed by a Contractor may temporarily change the designation of the confined space from non-permit to permit due to the nature of the work such as welding or hot work. A competent employee of the Contractor is responsible in determining if any operation to be performed meets the said condition which must be identified prior to start of the work and a permit obtained.
- 13) Contractor is to evaluate each confined space for the following:
 - Presence of explosive gases equal to or greater than 10% of the lower explosive limit (LEL).
 - Deficient or enriched oxygen atmospheres.
 - Carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide concentrations
 - Recognized hazards – electric shock, burns, heat stress, noise hazards and walking/working surfaces.
- 14) Contractor is to evaluate and monitor confined space hazards throughout the operation.
- 15) Control of potential hazards with the following measures:
 - Mechanical – ensure proper lockout/tagout procedures are used when needed to prevent hazards within the confined space.
 - Ventilation – a ventilation fan shall be used for the duration of the job if exposure to harmful vapors or an oxygen deficient atmosphere exists.
 - Slips and Falls – be cautious if shoes and/or ladders are wet or oily, inspect shoes prior to entry.

- Burns and Heat Stress – a ventilation fan will provide cooler temperatures but cautions is required around hot equipment and avoid overexertion within the confined space. Frequent breaks should be taken for employees.
- For confined spaces with oxygen-enriched atmospheres to prevent explosions, do not use equipment that may cause a flame or sparks.
- PPE shall be worn when a potential hazard exists.

1.4 RESCUE OPERATIONS

In the event of an emergency entry rescue into a confined space, the attendant must immediately call 911. Only a trained rescue team can perform emergency rescues. The fire department will respond to the call and notify the local hospital emergency rescue unit.

1.5 REGULATIONS

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.147	Permit-Required Confined Spaces
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.268	Telecommunications
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.269	Electrical Transmission and Distribution
OSHA 29 CFR 1926.353(b)	Ventilation for Welding, Cutting and Heating

1.6 ACCOUNTABILITY

All contactors will be responsible for complying with the guidelines as described above. Contractors are to communicate to their employees and Subcontractors all the guidelines and relevant information. All work shall be performed in accordance with University policies and procedures as well as all applicable laws and regulations.