

# New Construction Sites And Confined Space Rescue Teams

*About 5,250 American workers die on the job every year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. That's 14 deaths a day.*

CARSON, CA, UNITED STATES, October 18, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- About 5,250 American workers die on the job every year, according to the U.S.

Department of Labor. That's 14 deaths a day. These tragedies sometimes occur in new construction and renovations, and in areas where danger is least suspected. Work in tight spaces is especially dangerous. That's why OSHA — the Occupational Safety and Health Administration — requires a [confined space rescue team](#) and rescue plan in place for new construction. These teams are critical because a dangerous situation on the job site can seem to come out of nowhere with no warning.



DCS Confined Space Rescue Team

## Why The Need For Confined Space Rescue Teams?

In 2015, OSHA updated its rules for confined spaces of construction. Work conducted in crawl spaces, tanks, utility holes, tunnels, and trenches, has an increased chance of encountering a host of dangerous situations. What do these confined spaces all have in common? They are not designed for occupancy for a long period of time, they are large enough for a worker to squeeze into, and they have few entry points and exits.

The official rule is a little denser. It reads: "An 'enclosed space' is a term... describing a workplace such as a manhole or a vault that is designed for periodic use under normal operating conditions, and that, under normal circumstances, does not contain a hazardous atmosphere but may contain a hazardous atmosphere under abnormal conditions."

These confined spaces occur on thousands of job sites all across the country every day. Sewers, storage tanks, reaction vessels, enclosed drains, tunnels, and silos are all other examples of possible workspaces that fall under the heading of enclosed spaces. Therefore, OSHA requires a confined space rescue plan and possibly a team for its construction.

## What Are The Hazards of Confined Spaces?

One of the greatest hazards of working in confined spaces isn't getting stuck, although that does happen. No, the greatest danger is running into a breathing situation. A worker can get into trouble here in several ways and unfortunately, they won't detect trouble in a lot of cases with their eyes. The work crew can't see if there is a lack of oxygen. They can't see if there are poisonous fumes or vapors. And They can't see if there's a flammable gas leak in the confined environment.

### Low Oxygen Levels

An environment with low oxygen can occur for several reasons, and few of them are obvious. Reactions between soil and the air can sometimes eat up the oxygen in a confined space.

In other cases, groundwater can react with limestone or chalk in the rock to make carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide will then displace the oxygen in the confined space.

Low oxygen can also form in steel tanks if the metal is oxidizing to form rust.

In any event, these situations can lead to asphyxiation. Warning signs of this life-threatening lack of oxygen are low energy, labored or abnormal breathing, headaches, chest pains, and dizziness. Ultimately, the worker could lose consciousness and die. In many cases, workers not following a confined space plan will lower themselves into a confined space, discover too late that there's low oxygen and not have the strength to climb out.

### Poisonous gases

Noxious and toxic gases build up in sewers and pits or leak into new construction through connective pipes. Poisonous gases can also leak into pits and trenches if in proximity to contaminated areas.

Some examples of these gases are hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide. Hydrogen sulfide, or "sewer gas" as it's commonly known, is an explosive gas that can build up in manholes or leak into tanks from pipes. It can sometimes smell like rotten eggs or sickeningly sweet. Hydrogen sulfide can cause a host of irritability, dizziness and nausea, collapse, and eventual death. Carbon monoxide on the other hand is odorless. While it can leak into confined spaces from pipes, CO is usually a side-effect of construction. Carbon monoxide is created by burning gasoline, natural gas, propane, or kerosene. Any composition engine can create CO and exposure is assured if the engine or generator isn't properly vented.

### Other Issues

Besides gas and oxygen, other issues that can harm workers in confined spaces are:

Extreme dust and particulates  
Extreme heat  
Flooding  
Physical mishap and injury

## Have a Plan for Confined Spaces

There are a number of steps to take for working in confined spaces and to satisfy federal guidelines. Contact a [safety compliance professional](#) with a proven track record with confined spaces. To create a rescue plan, start with a risk profile. This will include a map of the site or, in new construction, a building preplan. Hazards, dimensions, controls, and the number of exits will all factor into the risk profile.

With the risk profile created, map out all the physical elements needed to conduct a rescue (equipment needed, anchor points, etc.), and also account for how first responders will gain access.

A safety compliance consultant is useful to walk through all the steps of the plan and contingencies for rescue scenarios. Also, save money by contracting this professional rather than bring one on the payroll full time.

## Practice Makes Perfect

Conduct drills, enforce wearing safety equipment, know who the local first responders are, and always have a rescue team ready to go. You never know when work in a confined space will need to utilize that rescue team.

[Contact us](#) today to talk to an experienced professional.

Lance B  
DCS Rescue  
+1 (562) 243-5978  
lanceb@anconservices.com

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/553151747>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable

in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.