

In 2015 OSHA released a new construction standard to address a hazard that takes the lives of construction workers each year: **Confined Spaces**.

OSHA Standard 1926 Subpart AA covers Confined Spaces in Construction

Confined Space – an area that:

- 1. Is large enough for a worker to enter it,***
- 2. Has limited means of entry or exit, and***
- 3. Not designed for continuous occupancy.***

- Confined spaces may appear to be safe but can contain invisible hazards such as dangerous fumes, vapors, or insufficient oxygen.
 - **Never enter a confined space unless you have the proper training, equipment, and procedures!**
 - **Determine if confined spaces have a potentially hazardous atmosphere** before entering by using special air testing equipment.
- Never assume that an open top pit is safe to enter, even if it is not labeled as a confined space. Pits, manholes, and tanks under construction could still pose dangers.
- **Permit-required confined spaces** are confined spaces that have any hazard such as:
 - hazardous atmosphere – such as low oxygen or a toxic gas
 - potential for engulfment or suffocation – a risk of drowning or being buried
 - a layout that might trap a worker through converging walls or a sloped floor
 - or any other serious safety or health hazard

Permit-required confined spaces require workers to take safety measures such as rescue equipment to safely remove someone out of the space without entering.