

DID YOU KNOW?

The NFPA 350 Confined Space Rescue Tiers

Tier 1 – Contains no recognized hazards (OSHA non-permit required confined space), but could require technical rescue should a worker become incapacitated. Rescue is available to respond within five minutes to the site and is capable of setup and rescue entry within 15 minutes.

Tier 2 – Contains non-life-threatening hazards (OSHA permit required confined space) that would require rapid intervention. The rescue crew is on site, and equipped for safe entry and rescue. The rescue team is capable of setup and rescue entry within 12 to 15 minutes of incident.

Tier 3 – Life-threatening hazards exist (OSHA permit required confined space) which would require immediate intervention. Actual or potential IDLH conditions exist. The rescue team is fully setup and capable of rescue entry within two minutes of incident. The rescue team should be dedicated to this singular entry with no other responsibilities.

60% of confined space related deaths are would-be rescuers



Permit Required Confined Spaces

Rescue or Recovery?

Do you have the rescue team for the job?

OSHA has very specific requirements as related to confined space rescue. Rescuers must be trained and demonstrate proficiency in:

- Confined Space rescue procedures, techniques, and equipment
- CPR and First Aid
- Documented simulated training exercises using actual confined spaces and life-size manikins or people
- Ability to reach victims within an acceptable time frame depending on the hazards

Working inside of a confined space is one of the most hazardous jobs that an employee can perform. Not only are the normal industry hazards present, but there could also be the possibility for potential explosive atmospheres, oxygen deficient or enriched environments, engulfment, and entrapment.

With the potential for these hazards being extremely high, the question of whether or not to use a professional rescue team comes up. To answer that question, we first have to understand the difference between non-entry, and entry rescue.

Non-entry rescue is the ability to retrieve the entrant from the confined space without any other personnel entering the space. This is usually accomplished with a lifeline attached to the entrant's harness. Confined space.

In the case of vertical entries, equipment such as a tripod and winch, or 4 to 1 rope retrieval system may be used. Employees can usually be trained in non-entry rescue over the course of a day. Additionally, the space itself is configured so that there are no obstructions to retrieval; in other words, the entrant can be pulled directly out of the

Entry rescue is much more specialized and is for when the entrant can't be retrieved without other personnel entering the space. This can be due to the configuration of the space, whether or not the entrant has to come off of the lifeline, or if the environment is considered immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH; for example, atmospheres).

OSHA tells you what to do.

The NFPA tells you how to do it.

For simple, non-entry rescue scenarios, your employees might meet these requirements and be sufficient. Or, it might sound like the local fire department is a perfect fit.

However, this is where we have to put down the OSHA standards, and switch over to the NFPA guidelines. OSHA tells you what you must do, which is respond to an emergency within an appropriate time frame.