

## Duties of Entry Supervisors in a Confined Space

1. Know the hazards that may be faced during entry, including information on the mode, signs or symptoms, and consequences of the exposure.
2. Verify that all pre-entry tests are completed and that all necessary equipment is available prior to endorsing the permit and allowing entry.
3. Terminate the entry and cancel permits as necessary.
4. Verify that rescue services are available and that the means for summoning them are operable.
5. Remove unauthorized individuals who enter or attempt to enter the permit space during entry operations.
6. Determine, whenever responsibility for a permit space operation is transferred and at intervals dictated by the hazards and operations performed in the space, that entry operations remain consistent with the terms of the entry permit and that acceptable entry conditions are maintained.

**Alternate Procedures for Permit Space Entry** - Alternate procedures for permit space entry are allowed for spaces whose only hazard is an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere that can be rendered safe by continuous forced air ventilation. If any other hazard is present then these alternate procedures cannot be utilized. Before alternate procedures may be used, monitoring and inspection data regarding the permit space must be obtained and documented. If an initial entry of the permit space is necessary to obtain data, the entry must be performed in compliance with permit-required confined space entry procedures.

After it has been established that only atmospheric hazards that can be controlled by continuous forced air ventilation are present in the permit space, the following alternate procedures may be used:

1. A written certification containing the date, the location of the space, and the signature of the person providing the certification must be provided prior to entry to all employees entering the space. This certification must verify that the space is safe for entry and that all necessary tests and inspections have been accomplished.
2. Any condition making it unsafe to remove an entrance cover must be eliminated before the cover is removed.
3. When entrance covers are removed, the opening must be guarded by a railing, temporary cover, or other barrier that will prevent an accidental fall through the opening and that will protect each employee working in the space from foreign objects entering the space.
4. Before any employee enters the space, the internal atmosphere must be tested using a calibrated direct-reading instrument for the following conditions in the order given:
  - a. Oxygen content
  - b. Flammable gases and vapors
  - c. Potential toxic air contaminants

5. There may be no hazardous atmosphere within the space whenever an employee is inside the space. Continuous forced air ventilation must be used as follows:
  - a. An employee may not enter the space until the forced air ventilation has eliminated any hazardous atmosphere
  - b. The forced air ventilation must be so directed as to ventilate the immediate areas where an employee is or will be working and must continue until all employees have left the space
  - c. The air supply for the forced air ventilation must be from a clean source and may not increase the hazard in the space
6. The atmosphere must be periodically tested, in the manner listed above, to ensure that no hazardous atmosphere has accumulated.
7. If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry, then all employees must leave the space immediately. The space must then be reevaluated to determine how the hazardous atmosphere developed and measures must be implemented to protect employees during any subsequent entry.

When changes in the use or configuration of the space are made that might increase the hazards faced by entrants, then that space must be reevaluated to determine if alternate procedures can still be effectively used or if permit-require confined space entry procedures are to be instituted.