

Rescue and Emergency Services

Just before entry, public safety offices of the university must be informed that a confined space entry is about to be made.

In the case of confined space entry being planned by the employees of the Physical Plant department, work control center must also be informed of the imminence of a confined space entry. This must be done by radio just prior to the actual entry by the standby worker stationed at the entrance to the confined space to be entered.

A standby worker, equipped and trained to act in case of an emergency, must be stationed at the entrance to the confined space. He/she shall be equipped with a supplied air respirator or self contained breathing apparatus, safety harness, a safety line and where necessary, protective clothing. The respiratory protective equipment must have U.S. Bureau of Mines approval or NIOSH (National Institute, Occupational Safety and Health) certification under Schedule 13 for protection against atmospheres immediately hazardous to life.

In the event of an actual emergency occurring, the offices of public safety as well as work control center must be informed immediately and asked to call in the local fire and emergency services in for assistance.

Standby worker will then provide immediate assistance to the worker inside the confined space in all possible ways but must continue to remain at the entrance and maintain radio contact until at least one other person has arrived at the scene. At this time individuals may enter the confined space to begin rescue operations while ensuring that at least one individual remains outside to keep the lines of communications open with public safety.

The first line supervisor must carry a radio at all times when individuals under his/her supervision plan to enter a confined space. The supervisor must contact the standby worker at the entrance of the confined space at least once every ten minutes to ensure that all is well. In the event of there being no response from the worker at the entrance to the confined space, the supervisor must immediately proceed to the sight of the entry to investigate.