

# Confined Space User Information

## Who does this Policy apply to?

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Any individual or group of individuals, contractors or employers that makes entry into permit required confined spaces inside the City of Portland

## What is a Permit Required Confined Space?

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A confined space is a space that is large enough for a person to enter, has limited means of access and is not designed for continued human occupancy. It may be a permit required confined space if it contains or has a reasonable potential to contain one or more of the following:

- A hazardous material , atmosphere or
- An engulfment or drowning hazard or
- Inwardly converging walls that taper to a smaller cross section or
- Any other serious health or safety risk,

For the complete definition and explanation of the requirements you must thoroughly read and understand OSHA standard known as Title 29, CFR part 1910.146 Permit Required Confined Spaces.

## What is the Portland Fire Department's Role in My Permit Required Confined Space Entry Program?

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The Portland Fire Department Confined Space Rescue Team was established and is sustained through a partnership between the fire department and area businesses / industries with the goal of ensuring the continued availability of these specialized emergency services.

The Portland Fire Department Confined Space Team can assist in determining your needs by doing a hazard assessment and further explaining our program capabilities and services.

Performing the required evaluation will determine if the service that the Portland Fire Department offers is sufficient to meet the requirements of your entry. ***It is up to you as the responsible party to ensure that all requirements of the state law are met***

## Why Can't I just dial 911? Won't the Fire Department show up anyway?

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The Portland Fire Department will respond to any report of a person or persons trapped or injured in a confined space. We will Respond regardless of whether or not we are listed as your service. This does not mean that we meet the requirements for a rescue service for the particular hazards of your space.

***State and Federal law specifically excludes merely posting of 911 as your response/rescue plan.***

Only those businesses that choose to participate in the .....program may list the fire department as their confined space rescue team. Those businesses who opt not to participate may not list the fire department as their response team and could be subject to a response fee on top of any OSHA fines that they may incur should we have to respond to a confined space emergency.

## **What are the rescue capabilities of the Fire Department?**

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The Portland Fire Department has a group of firefighters that are trained to the confined space operations level which allows for limited entry into a confined space provided they perform a hazard assessment and all recognized hazards are appropriately addressed. They are limited to making entry when they can see the victim from the access/egress point and there are no obstacles to hinder removal of victim.

A smaller group of specially trained firefighters are capable of performing more complex and extended confined space operations. Specific information regarding the capabilities of this team and our **Confined Space Partnership Program** can be answered by the on shift Officer of Rescue 1 at 874-8400

## **What Requirements have to be met to list the Portland Fire Department as an Off Site Rescue Service?**

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-The business or responsible party must enter into a partnership with the Portland Fire Department through a written contractual agreement.

-The Contractor or responsible party for the confined space entries must determine if the resources and delivery system of the Portland Fire Department are adequate for the work and spaces being entered. This can be accomplished by using the guidelines set forth in OSHA standard 1910.146. The responsible party is obligated to disclose all actual or potential hazards that may be encountered in the space and the full scope of work to be performed.

-The Fire Department must evaluate the entry conditions and space to determine if providing off site rescue services is within the scope of its capabilities. This decisions will be based on the hazards likely to be encountered and the proximity of the space to appropriate resources.