

2017-204 Confined Space Rescue



Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department

Standard Operating Procedure

Section: Emergency Operations	TOPIC: Confined Space Rescue
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POLICY REFERENCES: NFPA 1670 Maine Bureau of Labor- Confined Space OSHA 1910.146	APPROVED BY: <hr/> <p>Andrew R. Turcotte Chief of Department</p>

Purpose:

This procedure shall serve as the minimum basic guideline for all permit required confined space rescues, whether above and/or below ground. Confined spaces which do not meet the definition of a Permit Required Confined Space may also utilize this guideline.

Scope:

To insure a reasonable level of safety in the performance of permit required confined space rescue and to help insure that reasonable practices are followed in the performance of duties.

Policy:

Confined space is defined as any space, above or below ground which:

- a. Is large enough and shaped so that a person can bodily enter and perform work and,
- b. Has limited or restricted means of entry or exit. (I.e. sewers, ground holes, storage tanks, boilers, tunnels, vaults, etc.) and,
- c. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Permit Required Confined Space (PRCS):

Permit Required Confined Space is defined as a confined space with one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. Contains or may contain a hazardous atmosphere including but not limited to:
 - Oxygen content below 19.5 or above 23.5%
 - Flammable atmosphere above 10% of the LFL
 - Presence or possible presence of toxic vapors
- b. Contains a material that may engulf a person in the space.

- c. Has an internal shape that could allow a person to be trapped or asphyxiated, such as inwardly converging walls or a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section.
- d. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Response

1. The response for any possible confined space rescue shall be a full box alarm with both rescue units and Squad 1 always assigned.
2. If there is not sufficient trained personnel on duty, a full time call back will be conducted to assure a minimum of 5 technician level members.
3. The South Portland Fire Department will be requested to respond as the backup team.
4. The first due engine and rescue shall respond directly to the incident location.
5. Other apparatus and the second rescue shall respond to level 2 staging, unless otherwise directed by the incident commander.
6. The officer of the second due Engine Company shall designate the location of the staging area. Said staging area shall be well outside of the incident location.
7. The response may be required to be altered due to special needs (lighting, lifting, special equipment, equipment capability, etc.)
8. The on call administrative Chief will be notified of the situation as soon as possible and will respond as needed.

Size up & Categorization

1. Upon arrival, the IC shall assess the situation to categorize as either a Confined Space or Permit Required Confined Space. All spaces pre-designated by industry as Permit Required Confined Space as evidenced by signage, a permit or verbal report shall be so categorized by the IC. Non-pre-designated Permit Required Confined Spaces may be so designated by the IC after assessment. Operations in Permit Required Confined Spaces shall follow this guideline. Operations in confined spaces may also utilize this guideline or portions thereof as determined by the IC.
2. Initial size-up shall also begin the process of determining rescue or recovery mode as per SOG. If a recovery mode is designated, no personnel shall be placed into the Permit Required Confined Space until all hazards have been essentially eliminated and all involved agencies have agreed to the recovery plan. Involved agencies include at least the WFD, WPD, and Industry representative frequently, this will also include the DEP, OSHA, Medical Examiner and any industry specific regulatory agencies.

Operations

1. All team members; rescue and back up, shall be in full protective clothing for the hazard involved.

2. In all cases, all rescue and back up team members shall be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus. Prior to entering any confined space, breathing shall be from the SCBA & Pass devices shall be active.
3. All rescue team members and back up team members shall be equipped with a full body harness with a retrieval line attached. Said retrieval line shall be attached to the harness in the rear near shoulder level. The other end of each retrieval line shall be securely affixed to a stationary object, piece of apparatus, etc. (If using a vehicle as a tie off point, the vehicle must be chocked and not allowed to move for any reason.)
4. **In no case, shall anyone enter the Permit Required Confined Space until all team members, rescue and back up, are harnessed, retrieval lines secured, and if necessary fire protection is provided.**
5. If the rescue is vertical in nature, and the vertical distance of the rescue exceeds five (5) feet, the retrieval lines shall be secured to a mechanical device located above the vertical opening. Said mechanical device may be tri-pod designed for this function or it may be by means of a block and tackle from an aerial ladder unit.
6. In so much as practical, all rescue operations shall be completed incorporating the team concept. In the event that the size of the Permit Required Confined Space limits rescue capabilities to one member, the other member shall stay immediately available at the opening attempting to stay in communications with the rescuer. At no time shall this position or the position of the backup team members be vacated while the rescue mission is in progress.
7. **In all cases the Incident Commander and the rescue team shall size-up and plan the rescue prior to entry to enable all required equipment to be taken in order to reduce rescue time to a minimum.**

Stand by Events

1. In the event the department is requested to provide stand by coverage for one of our contracted customers, the Chief of the Department or the Deputy Chief will develop an incident action plan (IAP). This plan will include the following:
 - a. An outline of Anticipated Work that is to be completed.
 - b. Role of the department
 - c. Scope of inspection
 - d. Schedule of work to be completed
 - e. Contact list
 - f. Site egress/access or issues including a photo lay out of property.
2. A minimum of two confined space technicians will be called back to staff the heavy rescue (Squad 1). The responsibilities of these individuals include but are not limited to:
 - a. Checking the equipment to ensure it is serviceable
 - b. Review IAP and provide site inspection if needed.
 - c. This crew's primary responsibility is to respond to confined space incidents. This does not preclude this crew from responding on additional calls for service, however they should not be placed in a situation that they could not break away and respond to the confined space incident should the need arise.

3. The Fire Chief and/or Deputy Fire Chief may authorize the hiring of additional personnel given the nature of the stand-by event.