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HAZARD ALERT

Working in Confined Spaces

Working in confined spaces can be very dangerous. A confined space is an area with poor or no airflow. Examples of confined spaces include:

Tanks

Bins

Covered Pits

Silos

Poor airflow allows accumulation of dangerous gases in confined spaces. Before a miner enters a confined space, the atmosphere needs to be checked for adequate oxygen concentration and the accumulation of flammable or harmful gases.

Adequate ventilation needs to be maintained when welding or cutting occurs in a confined space. Welding and/or cutting operations deplete oxygen and produce carbon monoxide and other harmful gases. Other tasks, such as painting and the use of chemicals, may require adequate ventilation and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including, but not limited to, respirators, goggles, face shields, and other special protective clothing. Manufacturer and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) precautions should always be followed.

Atmospheric monitoring should be conducted with calibrated instruments to ensure a safe working atmosphere. Monitoring should be conducted prior to entering a confined work space and continuously until the space is exited. Atmospheric monitoring should include; Oxygen, LEL and all potentially toxic gases in the confined space.

Miners working in the confined space should be attached to a lifeline. A second person should be positioned outside the confined space to constantly monitor both the lifeline and miner working in the confined space.

The Monitor should be ready to summon for help in case of an emergency. They should **NEVER ENTER** the confined space without wearing appropriate safety and personal protective equipment to rescue a collapsed miner. The atmosphere in the confined space may be dangerous.



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Health
Comes
First!**