Stony Brook University

SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter July 2015

New Confined Space Standard

August 3, 2015 brings about a new OSHA Confined Spaces for Construction standard. The Confined Spaces in Construction standard is found at 29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA, sections 1926.1201 through 1916.1213. The new standard protects employees engaged in construction activities at a worksite with one or more confined spaces.

All employers engaged in construction have a duty under the final standard to ensure that their employees do not enter a confined space except in accordance with the requirements of the standard, and the presence of a confined space on the worksite triggers this duty. The focus is on the type of work performed, and whether that work could produce, and expose employees to, confined space hazards.

Are you construction or general industry?

OSHA issued a letter of interpretation to help define which standards you should follow stating as follows, "Construction work is not limited to new construction, but can include the repair of existing facilities or the replacement of structures and their components. For example, the replacement of one utility pole with a new, identical pole would be maintenance; however, if it were replaced with an improved pole or equipment, it would be considered construction."

What to Do

- Do not enter permit-required confined spaces without being trained and without having a permit to enter.
- Review, understand and follow Stony Brook's procedures before entering permit-required confined spaces and know how and when to exit.
- Before entry, identify any physical hazards.
- Before and during entry, test and monitor for oxygen content, flammability, toxicity or explosive hazards as necessary.
- Use employer's fall protection, rescue, air-monitoring, ventilation, lighting, and communication equipment according to entry procedures.
- Maintain contact at all times with a trained attendant either visually, via phone, or by two-way radio. This monitoring system enables the attendant and entry supervisor to order you to evacuate and to alert appropriately trained rescue personnel to rescue entrants when needed.

Date:	
Department:	
Supervisor ***(please print)*****:**	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: ***Please Print Clearly***	*Signature*

Environmental Health and Safety

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.