

Augusta University

Policy Library

Confined Space Entry Policy

Policy Owner: Environmental Health and Safety Division

POLICY STATEMENT

Augusta University shall protect employees and contract personnel from the hazards of entry into permit-required confined spaces; ensure that regulatory requirements regarding entry into confined spaces are met; and,

- Prevent unauthorized employee entry into permit-required confined spaces.
- Assure safe entry and work within confined spaces by authorized employees and contract personnel.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
 Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
 Other:

DEFINITION

A permit-required confined space is a space that is large enough for personnel to enter, has limited or restricted means of entry or exit (requires using one's hands and/or knees for entry/egress), is not designed for continuous occupancy, and contains one or more of the following:

- A hazardous atmosphere
- A material that could engulf an entrant
- An internal configuration that could trap an entrant or contributes to asphyxiation by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section
- Any other recognized safety or health hazard.

Examples of confined spaces include vessels, tanks, manholes, pits, bins, restricted areas, rail/tank cars, ducts, sewers, sumps, column skirts, excavations, noise enclosures, etc. This list is not all-inclusive.

Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management Use Only

Policy No.: 598

Policy Sponsor: Chief Integrity Officer

Originally Issued: Not Set

Last Revision: 05/08/2017

Last Review: 05/22/2017

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

General

Each organizational element requiring access to a permit-required confined space develops and implements a confined space procedure. The procedure is reviewed and approved by the Associate Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) prior to implementation. At a minimum, procedures will include provisions for personnel training, hazard assessment, personal protective equipment, emergency procedures, and permitting. A change to approved procedures requires the review and approval of the Associate Vice President of EHS.

All contract personnel who may require entry into permit-required confined spaces adhere to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines for confined space entry. Individuals who contract on behalf of Augusta University will ensure that such a requirement is placed in the contract for services.

Responsibilities

- Managers/Supervisors of Facilities Operations
 - Seek to mitigate hazards by engineering and other means to eliminate the requirement for “permit-required” entries into confined spaces.
 - If a permit-required confined space is identified, develop a confined space procedure for entry into the space. Submit the confined space procedure to the Associate Vice President of EHS for approval prior to implementation.
- Associate Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety
 - Provides technical guidance on confined space entry procedures.
 - Reviews and approves confined space entry procedures.
- Contracting Personnel ensure that all contracts for services requiring entry into permit-required confined spaces specify that the contractor adhere to OSHA guidelines for confined space entry.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- OSHA standard for permit-required confined spaces (general industry):
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=9797
- Confined space hazards are addressed in specific standards for the construction industry:
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owasrch.search_form?p_doc_type=STANDARDS&p_toc_level=1&p_keyvalue=Construction

RELATED POLICIES

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APPROVED BY:

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: 05/22/2017