

INITIAL EVALUATION OF CONFINED-SPACE RESCUE PLANS



SAFETY SERVICES COMPANY®

To determine if a permit-required confined space rescue plan is sufficient. This plan could be a response team of employees trained by the employer or calling 911, but both must pass muster. Answering "no" to any question means considering an alternative that satisfies this guide.

TASKS

1. Determine the rescue response time needed for permit-required confined spaces. In other words, how long can a person remain trapped in the confined space. Consider any PEL, REL time limits (e.g. H2S has an NIOSH REL 10 ppm ceiling for 10 minutes)

If there is a possible IDLH, a rescue team needs to be standing by. If the hazards are only physical (e.g. broken bones, abrasions) a longer response time can be tolerated.

2. Calculate the time required for the rescue service by adding the needed time to: get the notification, arrive at the scene, set-up and be ready to enter. Consider the rescue team's distance from each worksite, quality of roads and traffic, reliability and training of the drivers.

Then subtract the needed response time. The answer must be a positive number to continue.

3. Determine the rescue response service availability:

- a) Is the rescue service available when workers will enter the permit-required confined space?
- b) Are key rescue members available at these times?
- c) Can the rescue service notify the attendant when they are unavailable so entries can be prevented or stopped?

4. Has the rescue service passed the most recent performance requirement evaluations?

5. Is the planned 911 service willing to perform rescues:

- a) If you call 911, is a responder available?
- b) Is the 911 responder willing to perform rescue and first aid?
- c) Are the 911 responders able to perform rescues at the worksite?

6. Can the attendant immediately request a rescue?

RESULTS

Needed rescue response time
_____ minutes.

Receive notification
_____ minutes

+

Arrive at the scene
_____ minutes

+

Set up & be ready for entry
_____ minutes

-

Needed rescue response time
_____ minutes

=

_____ minutes

Must result in a positive number

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____

Yes _____ No _____