



Confined Spaces

Recognizing the presence and hazards associated with confined spaces is critical if you are working around them. Untrained, ill-equipped workers who try to work in, or rescue people from, confined spaces often become victims.



This code of safe practice is intended to raise awareness of confined space hazards. It is not a permit-required confined space entry training resource. Only employees trained in the confined space entry operating procedures established by the UC are allowed to enter confined spaces.

What is a confined space?

1. It is an area large enough for an person to enter and perform assigned work, and
2. It has limited or restricted means of entry or exit, and
3. It is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

What is a permit-required confined space?

Any space that meets the definition of a confined space **AND**:

1. Contains or has the potential to contain hazardous air conditions,
2. Contains a material with the potential to engulf someone who enters the space,
3. Has an internal configuration that might cause an entrant to be trapped or suffocated, or
4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazards.

Examples of confined spaces in performing arts facilities:

1. Orchestra pit lift area
2. Elevator pits
3. House cove (attic) lighting positions
4. Plumbing runs
5. Boilers

When might personnel encounter confined spaces in performing arts facilities?

1. When conducting inspections, repairs, and/or maintenance activities
2. When working in designated areas such as front of house attic lighting positions
3. When conducting emergency rescue operations

What are the hazards that make performing arts confined spaces deadly?

1. Hazardous air conditions (such as flammable gas, too little oxygen, too much oxygen, airborne combustion dust)
2. Conditions that can trap or suffocate an entrant (such as inwardly converging walls, the lowering of the

orchestra floor)

3. Mechanical hazards (such as gears, conveyors, etc.)
4. Electrical hazards
5. Poor visibility, lack of lighting
6. Falling objects
7. Falling, tripping, insecure footing
8. Other hazards that would make escape or rescue from the area difficult

Processes that can create a hazardous atmosphere:

9. Aerosols, dust, fumes, mist, gases, vapors, radiation
10. Chemical reactions
11. Decomposition of organic matter
12. Cleaning materials and reagents
13. Welding, spray painting, grinding, sand blasting
14. Stored products/chemicals
15. Leaks and spills
16. Charging batteries

Never enter confined spaces until properly trained and authorized as you are putting yourself at risk of serious injury or death.

Ways you can help protect yourself and your co-workers:

1. Consult with the EH&S Department and refer to the campus-specific Confined Space Entry Program, procedures, and training requirements.
2. Never violate the posted “ACCESS RESTRICTED TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL” and “ENTRY BY PERMIT ONLY” signs if you are not authorized to enter.
3. Know how to identify a confined space.
4. Work with the EH&S Department to identify permit and non-permit required spaces in each venue.
5. Develop written safe working procedures for all confined spaces within each venue.
6. Never enter an area that could be a confined space unless you are trained and authorized to do so. Contact your supervisor or instructor if you are in doubt.
7. Never rely on your senses to determine if a confined space has no hazards. A number of hazardous gases are both colorless and odorless.
8. NEVER enter a confined space to try to rescue another worker unless properly trained and do so.