

Confined space

Entering confined spaces risks exposure to hazards like low oxygen, toxic gases, engulfment, or entrapment.



Cause #	Cause description
1	Employees unaware they are entering a confined space; untrained employees entering a confined space in emergencies.
2	Irrespirable atmosphere.
3	Engulfment or drowning.
4	Extreme heat.
5	Fatal concentrations of any atmosphericborne contaminants, including atmosphericborne gases, vapours and dusts, chemicals, that may cause injury from fire or explosion .
6	Electrocution.
7	Ignition of explosive atmospheres.
8	Entrapment.

Potential to interact with other fatal risks	
Critical risk	Potential interaction
Remote and isolated work.	Lack of, or delay in, emergency response.
Hazardous substances.	Exposure to hazardous substances whilst in confined space.

Preventive controls (reducing likelihood)	Critical/non critical	Cause #
(CC01) Control of Confined space entry: Completion of a confined space risk assessment and entry permit approved for all confined space entries.	Critical	2 – 8
(CC02) Air supplied respiratory equipment (RPE) and emergency rescue equipment is available for use, and is provided as determined by CC01.	Critical	2 – 8
(CC03) Atmospheric monitoring: Required atmospheric monitoring of confined spaces prior to and during confined space work to ensure a respirable atmosphere, and the presence of flammable/explosive atmospheres and/or atmosphericborne contaminants do not exceed exposure standards.	Critical	2 – 8
(CC04) Ignition sources: Mandatory requirement that ignition sources are not to be carried into a confined space where there is a risk of a flammable or explosive atmosphere.	Critical	5
(CC05) Isolation of plant and services: All plant, equipment or devices with moving parts or stored energy, including hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, thermal or other types of energy, shall be reduced to a zero energy condition so that no energy is left in devices and systems, isolated and locked.	Critical	2 – 8
(CC06) Confined space communication: Must be held, and with monitoring of, persons within the confined space, by a standby person.	Critical	2 – 8
(CC07) Confined space entry signs: shall be erected prior to and during all confined space work.	Critical	1
(CC08) Employees shall purge or ventilate contaminants: Employees shall remove any contaminants in the atmosphere of the confined space.	Critical	2 – 8
Intrinsically safe equipment utilised in confined spaces.	Non-Critical	2 – 8
Ensure concentration of any flammable gas, vapour or mist is less than 5% of its LEL, so far as is reasonably practicable.	Non-Critical	2 – 8
All employees involved in confined space work, including rescuers and standby personnel shall have current, nationally accredited confined space competencies.	Non-Critical	2 – 8
Potential confined space work is clearly defined by each work unit in a confined space register.	Non-Critical	1
Confined space awareness training provided to relevant employees to assist with the identification of potential confined spaces.	Non-Critical	1
Review of data base to ascertain the nature of any confined spaces at each campus and SCU site.	Non-Critical	1
Use of external resources including QFRS to enter confined spaces.	Non-Critical	2 – 8
Drones, remote cameras.	Non-Critical	2 – 8
Mitigating controls (reducing consequence)	Critical/non critical	Cause #
(CC09) Confined Space Emergency Plan: First aid and rescue procedures must be followed in the event of an emergency in the confined space.	Critical	1 – 8