

# SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

## Standard Operating Procedures

**130.03.02**  
**CONFINED SPACE RESCUE**



Adopted: 12/20/16  
Reviewed: 11/09/22  
Revised: 11/09/22

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan J. Bell".

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines for size-up and support at confined space rescue incidents.

**References:** WAC 296-305-05003  
WAC 296-305-04001  
WAC 296-809  
NFPA 1670

### **Procedure:**

1. Fire District 8 does not provide primary rescue services in confined spaces, but instead relies upon the expertise of technical rescue teams from regional agencies
2. When responding to a report of a potential confined space rescue, you should consider immediately initiating a Technical Rescue Team response via Dispatch.
  - a) Examples of spaces with limited or restricted entry are:
    - i. Tanks.
    - ii. Vessels.
    - iii. Silos.
    - iv. Storage bins.
    - v. Hoppers.
    - vi. Vaults.
    - vii. Excavations.
    - viii. Pits.
  - b) Confined space incidents may involve:
    - i. Injured persons.
    - ii. Persons asphyxiated.
    - iii. Persons overcome by toxic substances.
    - iv. Cave-ins.
    - v. Fires occurring within the space.
3. Initial Actions.
  - a) Establish command.
  - b) Do Not Enter the confined space area.
  - b) Place the apparatus at least 150 feet from the location of the confined space.
  - c) Create exclusion zones (Hot, Warm, and Cold).
  - d) Deny access to all other persons.
  - e) Shut down all equipment that will adversely affect the space, (exhaust, noise, etc).

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- f) Secure a responsible party, job foreman or witness to the accident for information. If no witness is present, Command may have to look for clues on scene as to what has happened.
- g) Identify the space as a "Confined Space" or a "Permit Required Confined Space".
- h) Assess readily available Confined Space documentation, MSDS, existing entry permits, plans, blueprints.
- i) Do a hazard size-up including any current or potential space hazards, in particular, any hazard(s) which lead to the necessary rescue and a risk analysis.
- j) Determine how many victims are within the space.
- k) Decide whether this operation will be run in the rescue or recovery mode.
- l) Assess on-scene capabilities.
- m) Assess the need for additional resources including technical rescue response.

#### 4. Identification of Space.

- a) Confined Space Definition (All must apply).
  - i. The space is large enough so an employee can bodily enter and perform work.
  - ii. The space has limited or restricted means for entry or exit.
  - iii. The space is NOT designed for continuous occupancy.
- b) Permit Required Confined Space (If any apply).
  - i. Contains or potentially contains a hazardous atmosphere.
  - ii. Contains material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant.
  - iii. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by smaller cross-section.
  - iv. Contains any other recognized serious safety hazards.