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### Confined Space Policy

#### Scope

The scope of the policy includes all spaces that fit the definition of "Confined Spaces" and "Permit-required Confined Spaces" as set forth in 29 CFR §1910:146.

#### Purpose

This policy prohibits College employees from entering Permit-required Confined Spaces. This policy also outlines the respective responsibilities of the College and Outside Contractors engaged by the College to perform work in Permit-required Confined Spaces, in accordance with 29 CFR §1910:146 Permit Required Confined Spaces.

#### Definitions

1. **Confined Space:** is a space that is (1) large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work (2) has limited or restricted means of entry and exit (for example tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry), and (3) is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.
2. **Hazardous Atmosphere:** is an atmosphere that may expose employees to the risk of death, incapacitation, impairment of ability to self-rescue (that is, escape unaided from a permit space), injury, or acute illness from one or more of the following causes:
  - a. Flammable gas, vapor, or mist in excess of 10% of its lower flammable limit (LFL)
  - b. Airborne combustible dust at a concentration that exceeds its LFL
  - c. Atmospheric oxygen concentration below 19.5% or above 23.5%
  - d. Atmospheric concentration of any substance for which a dose or a permissible exposure limit is published in either 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart G or Z, which could result in employee exposure in excess of its dose or permissible exposure limit; or
  - e. Any other atmospheric condition that is immediately dangerous to life or health
3. **Permit-required Confined Space:** a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:
  - a. Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere
  - b. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant
  - c. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
  - d. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard

*Elizabethtown College does not have any permit-required confined spaces.*

#### The College:

1. The College shall evaluate the workplace and determine if any Confined Spaces are Permit-required Confined Spaces.
2. All Permit-required Confined Spaces shall be marked with a sign reading "DANGER: PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE – DO NOT ENTER."
3. In the event that there are changes in the use or configuration of a Confined Space that might increase the hazards to entrants, the College shall reevaluate that space and, if necessary, reclassify the space as a Permit-required Confined Space.
4. College employees shall not enter Permit-required Confined Spaces under any circumstances.
5. The College shall engage Outside Contractors to perform all work in Permit-required Confined Spaces.
6. When the College arranges to have an Outside Contractor perform work that involves a Permit-required Confined Space, the College shall:
  - a. Inform the Outside Contractor that the workplace contains Permit-required Confined Spaces and that the Permit-required Confined Space entry is allowed only through compliance with a Permit-required Confined Space program meeting the requirements of 29 CFR §1910.146
  - b. Apprise the Outside Contractor of the elements, including the hazards identified and the College's experience with that space, that make the space in question a Permit-required Confined Space



- c. Apprise the Outside Contractor of any precautions or procedures that the College has implemented for the protection of employees in or near Permit-required Confined Spaces where Outside Contractor personnel will be working
- d. Coordinate entry operations with the Outside Contractor, when both College personnel and Outside Contractor personnel will be working near Permit-required Confined Spaces; and
- e. Debrief the Outside Contractor at the conclusion of the entry operations regarding the Permit-required Confined Space program followed and regarding any hazards confronted or created in Permit-required Confined Spaces during entry operations.

### **Outside Contractors:**

7. Outside Contractors shall perform all work in accordance with all applicable laws, statutes, codes, rules, regulations and ordinances.
8. It shall be the responsibility of each Outside Contractor to:
  - a. Obtain any available information regarding Permit-required Confined Space hazards and entry operations from the College
  - b. Coordinate entry operations with the College, when both College personnel and Outside Contractor personnel will be working near Permit-required Confined Spaces; and
  - c. Inform the College of the Permit-required Confined Space program that the Outside contractor will follow and of any hazards confronted or created in Permit-required Confined Spaces, either through a debriefing or during the entry operation

### **Evaluation**

The Safety Committee shall be responsible for evaluating this policy annually.

### **Locations of Confined Spaces**

Tank in High Library  
Crawl space in Ober A&B  
Crawl space in BSC  
Crawl space in Thompson Gym  
Underground manholes

### **Locations of Permit-required Confined Spaces**

Elizabethtown College does not have any Permit-required Confined Spaces.

### **Document History**

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