

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY METHOD STATEMENT



METHODOLOGY

Prior to commencing work, a point of work risk assessment must be completed via the Telecom Risk assessment app.

All relevant work instruction and technical specifications must be fully understood and briefed to those involved in the works.

The rescue plan must be briefed and fully understood by all personnel on site.

Traffic management must be set up as per the Red Book – Street Works code of practice, considerations should be made for disabled access and pushchairs.

A confined space entry permit must be completed prior to entering a confined space (NC 2, 3 & 4)

Before entry: close valves, empty the space i.e. pump out water, use a tag-off / lock - off system on electrical sources where applicable.

Ensure sacrificial gas monitoring is completed prior to confined space entry for at least 20 minutes. GDU must be in date of calibration. Confined space must be continually monitored.

Open chambers must be guarded accordingly – 4 sided barriers.

Removal of chamber covers must be done using the correct technique and equipment.

Prior to setting up the rescue tripod, ensure all relevant rescue equipment is in date of thorough examination (as per LOLER – 6 Months). Complete a function test to ensure the fall arrest / breaking device is working.

Ensure emergency provisions, including first aid kit, eye wash and fire extinguisher are readily available.

Prior to donning fall arrest harness ensure harness and associated equipment is free from damage and in date of thorough examination.

When donning Fall Arrest Harness utilise the buddy-buddy system to ensure the harness is fitted correctly.

Attach fall arrest line to the rear D ring on the harness prior to climbing in to the chamber.

Ensure all hazards within chamber are appropriately controlled as per Risk assessment and PTW. Existing services isolated, Gas test completed, water and or sludge removed from base of chamber if deemed necessary. Apply forced ventilation where required.

When entering chamber use climbing pegs if available, if not available use tripod winch to lower operative in to chamber.

In the event of alarm sounding on GDU, stop what you are doing and safely exit the chamber.

In the event of operative becoming incapacitated whilst in the confined space, utilise rescue plan, top man to rescue operative via rescue tripod / winch.

On completion of confined space work, exit chamber safely, remove any waste generated from chamber, remember to remove all tools and equipment used in chamber and close off Permit.

When leaving site ensure all waste, plant, tools and equipment are removed from site, including Traffic management – barriers and signs.

Competencies / Training

- City and Gilds Level 2 Confined Space Entry – Medium Risk (Includes Top man)
- NRSWA O1 / S1
- Relevant PIA accreditations



HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

- Falls from Height
- Dropped objects
- Pedestrians
- Live carriageway – moving vehicles
- Atmosphere - Oxygen deficiency / Dangerous Gases
- Sludge at base of chamber – Potential to release harmful gas when disturbed
- Biological agents – Leptospirosis
- Live existing services
- Drowning
- Entrapment
- Hyperthermia & Hypothermia



PLANT, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS

Please Note: All equipment used in confined space must be intrinsically safe

- Hand line for lowering detector, tools etc.
- Gas detection Unit
- Hand tools / power tools
- First aid kit (1 to 5 or larger).
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fall arrest tripod., Fall arrest and recovery device.
- Escape breathing apparatus.?
- Safety barriers and road signs etc. as appropriate.
- Life jacket - If Applicable.
- Radio – if applicable



EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- Location of A&E must be known by all personnel on site
- Ensure safe access / egress is maintained for emergency services vehicles
- Confined Space Operatives must be attached to fall arrest tripod at all times – Access / egress and during working activities within the confined space.
- All incidents must be reported to the Incident line – 03301231092 (Only when safe to do so)
- Top man must be in position at all times and maintain contact with person in the confined space
- The Confined Space rescue plan must be discussed and understood prior to entry.



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Spill kits must be readily available in works vehicles
- Flora and Fauna risks should be considered. If discovered, stop works and consult SHEQ Team
- Contaminants within confined space



PPE REQUIREMENTS

PPE items shown below must be available and worn wear necessary during this task.

- Rescue Harness
- Hard hat with chin strap
- Hi-Viz, Flame retardant clothing
- Safety Footwear
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Ear Defenders – if required as per RA



COSHH

Refer to COSHH Assessments for further information

- Toxic Gas – H₂S (Hydrogen Sulphide)
- Flammable Gas (Vapours and Fumes)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)