

# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

## CONFINED SPACE SAFETY

A confined space has limited openings for entry or exit, is large enough for entering and working, and is not designed for continuous worker occupancy. Confined spaces include underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, manholes, pits, silos, underground utility vaults and pipelines.

There are over 1,200 confined spaces at MCLB Albany. Most of these confined spaces are manholes and classified as Permit-Required Confined Spaces. Below are things you should know about Permit-Required Confined Spaces to help keep you safe prior to entry.



**DANGER**  
CONFINED SPACE  
ENTER BY  
PERMIT ONLY

### What Is A Permit-Required Confined Space (PRCS)?

- Permit-required confined spaces are confined spaces that may contain:
  - A hazardous or potentially hazardous atmosphere.
  - A material which can engulf an entrant.
  - Walls that converge inward or floors that slope downward and taper into a smaller area which could trap or asphyxiate an entrant.
  - Other serious physical hazards such as unguarded machines or exposed live wires.
- Must be identified by the employer who must inform exposed employees of the existence and location of such spaces and their hazards.

### How to Prevent a PRCS Incident?

- Do not enter a PRCS without being trained and without having a permit to enter.
- Review, understand and follow employer's procedures before entering permit-required confined spaces and know how and when to exit.
- Before entry, identify any physical hazards.
- Before and during entry, test and monitor for oxygen content, flammability, toxicity or explosive hazards as necessary.
- Use employer's fall protection, rescue, air-monitoring, ventilation, communication equipment according to entry procedures.
- Maintain contact at all times with a trained attendant either visually, via phone, or by two-way radio. This monitoring system enables the attendant and entry supervisor to order you to evacuate and to alert appropriately trained rescue personnel when needed.

### What Are Some Work Practices You Should Know Prior to PRCS Entry?

- 1 Monitoring the Atmosphere.** Knowing the atmospheric conditions inside the confined space can mean the difference between life and death. No employee should go in until the atmosphere is tested for exposure to a toxic, oxygen-deficient or enriched, or flammable atmosphere. Sometimes it is also important to monitor during entry because conditions can change.
- 2 Removing the Hazards.** Before anyone enters a confined space, steps should be taken to lockout energy hazards, double block and bleed lines that run into the space, ventilate the confined space if it contains a hazardous atmosphere, and remove engulfment hazards. Confined spaces are dangerous enough without these additional hazards.
- 3 Analyzing the Hazards.** Usually, confined spaces are entered because work needs to be done inside them. You should analyze the work to be performed to ensure that it will not create an unsafe environment for the entrant. Pay special attention to spark-producing tools or anything that can produce carbon monoxide and welding.
- 4 Notifying Rescue Service.** Reliance on an outside party for rescue can be fatal if procedures are not coordinated properly. Before any entry into a permit-confined space, you should notify the Marine Corps Fire Department (MCFD) and alert them of the entry. Calling the MCFD at **639-5911** and notifying them once the entrant is in trouble will assure that rescue is conducted properly without any additional fatalities.
- 5 Providing Mechanical Rescue.** Permit-required confined spaces should use a tripod and hoist, if the PRCS configuration allows it to protect the entrant and rescue team from entering during rescue. This enables the rescuers to remove the entrant from outside of the confined space. The other advantage is that rescue can be performed immediately, with the rescue team standing by.

Base Order MCLBAO 5100.12B, Confined Space Program, provides guidance on entry into confined spaces aboard MCLB Albany. No person shall enter a confined space except in accordance with this Order. For additional information on confined space safety, please visit OSHA website at [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/hazards\\_solutions.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/hazards_solutions.html)



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