CONFINED SPACE ENTRY DECISION FLOW CHART

Definition of a Confined Space
1. Is a space that is large enough and so configured so that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
2. Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit; and
3. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Definition of a Permit Required Confined Space
1. Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
2. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant;
3. 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
4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Is the confined space a permit space? NO

Will the permit space be entered? NO

Can the hazards be eliminated? YES

Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only? (i.e., is the only hazard atmospheric?) YES

Prepare for entry via permit procedures approved by the Entry Supervisor.

Verify acceptable entry conditions (Test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.) NO

Acceptable entry condition maintained throughout entry? NO

Entry tasks completed. Permit returned and canceled.

Permit not valid until conditions meet permit specifications.

Emergency exist (prohibited condition). Entrants evacuated. Entry aborted. (Call rescuers if needed). Permit is void.

Permit space may be reclassified to a non-permit required confined space.

Space may be entered using Alternate Entry Procedures.

Prevent employee entry. Do tasks from outside the permit space.

Permit not required. Use other appropriate safe work practices.