TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION
SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the TXOGA Workers' Compensation Safety Group

Confined Space Entry

What this Safety Talk Covers:

The "Dos" and "Don'ts" of working safely in and around confined spaces.

Discussion Notes:

Discuss the outcomes of the "Dos" and "Don'ts."

Do

- ✓ Test the atmosphere before entry and continuously monitor while inside the confined space. Vessels and tanks can accumulate hydrogen sulfide (H2S), hydrocarbon vapors, or CO at lethal concentrations with no warning. Use a calibrated multi-gas monitor and never rely on smell alone.
- ✓ Obtain a valid confined space entry permit before anyone enters. Verify it covers the specific space, the date, the authorized entrants, and the anticipated hazards.
- ✓ Purge, isolate, and blank/blind all connected lines before entry.
- ✓ Designate a trained attendant who remains outside the space for the entire entry. The attendant must have the means to communicate with the entrant, know the rescue plan, and have the authority to abort the entry at any time.
- ✓ Use proper respiratory protection when atmospheric hazards cannot be eliminated.
- ✓ Brief all entrants on the specific hazards of the space before entry, including any residual product, sludge, or scale that may off-gas during disturbance. What's on the permit is a minimum; conditions can change.

Don't

- x Assume a space is safe because it has been ventilated or was safe the last time it was entered.
- x Enter without a rescue plan in place. Self-rescue is rarely an option in confined spaces.
- x Rely on non-intrinsically safe tools or equipment inside spaces where flammable atmospheres are possible. A single spark from an unapproved grinder or light can ignite residual hydrocarbon vapors.
- x Allow the entrant count to exceed what's on the permit, and don't swap entrants in and out without updating documentation and re-briefing.
- x Skip lockout/tagout (LOTO) because a piece of equipment "isn't running right now." Agitators, pumps, and injection systems can be remotely activated or auto-start. Unexpected energization inside a confined space is almost always fatal.
- x Treat rescue as someone else's job. Every worker on site should know where the rescue equipment is, how to activate emergency response, and that attempting an unprotected entry to rescue a downed coworker is one of the leading causes of multiple fatalities in confined space incidents.

Meeting notes:
Employee comments/concerns:_____

_____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility:_____

_____

Training record: Date:_____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____

Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/
	/		/

(Continue recording signatures on a separate sheet of paper)
Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1. (b), 2. (d), 3. (b), 4. (d), 5. (b)

TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION
SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the TXOGA Workers' Compensation Safety Group

Employee Quiz
Confined Space Entry

Employee Name: _____

Circle the correct answer below

1. Never enter a confined space without:
   a. Your lighter
   b. A rescue plan
   c. An extra pair of gloves
   d. All of the above

2. The confined space entry permit should cover:
   a. The specific space
   b. Authorized entrants
   c. Anticipated hazards
   d. All of the above

3. The entrant count:
   a. Should be within 20% of what's on the permit
   b. Should not exceed what's on the permit
   c. Can change throughout the day without the need for a re-briefing
   d. All of the above

4. It's acceptable to skip lockout/tagout on a pump connected to an oilfield vessel when:
   a. The pump has not run in several days
   b. Your supervisor is aware of the situation
   c. You don't have time to complete the lockout/tagout procedure
   d. None of the above

5. Relying on smell to determine air quality is ok as long as you will not be in the confined space for more than ten minutes.
   a. True
   b. False

Training record: Date: _____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____