

Northwestern State University

Confined Space Program

6/2017

Purpose & Scope

The primary goal of a Confined Space program is to ensure all confined spaces are identified and no one is permitted to work in an unsafe environment.

Northwestern State conducted an assessment of the University using the definition of a confined space and identified several confined spaces on our campus.

Responsibilities

NSU Physical Plant Management shall be responsible for:

- Identifying and placing signage on permit entry required confined space areas,
- On-the-job training for NSU employees
 - Permit entry required spaces—indicating NO Employee will enter space.
 - Hazardous Spaces-Employee will use Buddy system.
- Requiring contractors to provide their own confined space program before beginning work at NSU.

Definitions

Confined Space means that a space:

- Dangerous environment/atmosphere - the nature of many confined spaces can cause them to have poor atmospheres such as a lack of oxygen, flammable gases, toxic gases, etc.
- Engulfment / Entrapment - the space has the potential for a material in the space to collapse and trap or bury the employee inside of the confined space
- Restricted Entry - spaces are not made for continuous occupancy by humans and may have limited entry and exit places.

PERMIT ENTRY REQUIRED SPACES – Only accessed by an outside contractor

- Trisler Power Plant – boiler
- Manholes – Sewer or Electric
- Sewer Lift Stations
- Storm Water Drains – over 16”

NON PERMIT ENTRY REQUIRED SPACES

- None are listed here, because there are no areas that meet this definition. If not permit entry required confined spaces then other areas are hazardous spaces.

HAZARDOUS SPACES

- Crawl spaces are listed here because employees could encounter vermin or temperature extremes in these areas.
- Crawl spaces do not meet the confined space definition.

Hazard Assessment of Confined Spaces

NSU will conduct an annual inspection of their campuses to determine if any additional spaces should be added to the Confined Space Program. AT the same time, NSU will remove any spaces that have been determined to no longer be a confined space.

Training

Employees within the Physical Plant must be trained within 30 days of employment on the current NSU confined space policy. Employees will be trained on permit entry required confined spaces and non-permit entry required confined spaces.

- Permit Entry Required Confined Spaces:
 - No NSU employee will enter a permit entry required confined space.
 - Signs marking the permit entry required spaces will be present, so that persons know not to enter.
 - Only Outside contractors will enter these spaces.
 - Contractor will have their own personalized confined space plan and must present that plan to NSU.
 - Contractor must also provide a current certificate of insurance for worker's compensation coverage on their employees.
- Hazardous Spaces:
 - Employees will work in pairs, "Buddy System", to enter non-permit entry required spaces.
 - Training will be conducted by the Utilities Department to all trades employees.
 - Due to the nature of the area, vermin may be present. Please notify your supervisor if you have any known allergies, so that precautions can be taken.
- Non-Permit Entry Required Confined Spaces:
 - When this type of space is identified at NSU, the program will be updated.

CONFINED SPACE ASSESSMENT AT NSU, JUNE 2017

- PERMIT REQUIRED SPACES
 - Trisler Power Plant – boiler
 - Manholes – Sewer or Electric
 - Sewer Lift Stations
 - Storm Water Drains – over 16"
- Hazardous Spaces—do not meet the definition of a confined space per Sedgwick/ORM Management
 - Caspari – crawl space
 - FACS – crawl space
 - Morrison – crawl space
 - Iberville – crawl space
 - Fournet – crawl space
 - University Police/ Infirmary – crawl space
 - St. Denis – crawl space
 - Williamson – crawl space
 - Bienvenu – crawl space