

Longshore Safety Tip

September 2011

CONFINED SPACES

Confined spaces can be deadly. A number of people are killed or seriously injured in confined spaces each year in the US.

Those killed include not only people working in the confined space but those who try to rescue them without proper training and equipment.

This could happen on our own longshore terminals if we were not careful!!!



The Access to Crane Legs are considered confined spaces.



Storm Drain



Grate easily removed



Access to Horizontal Leg on Crane

WHAT IS A CONFINED SPACE ?

A confined space has limited openings for entry or exit, is large enough for entering and working, and is not designed for continuous occupancy.

Confined spaces include underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, manholes, pits, silos, underground utility vaults and pipelines.

NEVER ENTER A CONFINED SPACE
ON ANY TERMINAL !!!!



Electrical or Communication Vaults



Vaults for Valves and Pumps at Wash Down Stations for Refer Units



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CONFINED SPACES



Electrical or Communication Vaults on our terminals

- *Liquids and solids which can suddenly fill the space, or release gases into it, when disturbed.*
- *Fire and explosions (e.g. from flammable vapors, excess oxygen etc).*
- *Residues left in tanks, vessels etc, or remaining on internal surfaces which can give off gas, fume or vapor.*
- *Dust may be present in high concentrations, e.g. in flour silos.*
- *Hot conditions leading to a dangerous increase in body temperature.*



Dual Storm Drains

What are the dangers from confined spaces?

- *A lack of oxygen; in ships' holds, freight containers, as a result of the cargo reacting with oxygen inside the space*
- *Inside steel tanks and vessels when rust forms.*
- *Engulfment in poisonous gas, fume or vapor. These can: buildup in sewers and manholes and in pits connected to the system.*



Another confined space could possibly be Electrical Rooms at Substations

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There are specially trained workers and procedures when there is a need to operate in a confined space.



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