

# Confined Spaces

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Contact: [Environmental Health and Safety \(EH&S\)](#)

## Introduction

Each year hundreds of people are injured or die as a result of entering into confined spaces that contain unknown hazards. To prevent unnecessary injuries or the loss of life, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) promulgated the Permit-Required Confined Spaces Standard (29 CFR 1910.146), effective April 15, 1993. The standard requires that all confined spaces be identified and that a written program outline the required procedures for entry into those spaces.

The Iowa State University Confined Spaces Program has been designed to provide a framework to assist university departments in their development of procedures to comply with this standard (29 CFR 1910.146).

## Policy Statement

Each university department is responsible for evaluating areas under its administrative control and determining whether confined spaces are present. A list of identified confined spaces shall be provided to Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). Departments with confined spaces in their areas are responsible for the adoption and implementation of the Iowa State University Confined Spaces Program including:

- Identification of methods to prevent unauthorized entry
- Classification of confined spaces by identifying hazards present
- Development of department-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) that detail how entry will be authorized (Permit System) and the steps necessary for safe entry
- Designation of authorized personnel, trained at the Confined Space Entrant level

## Resources

### Links

- [EH&S Confined Spaces \[resource page\]](#)