

10.2 CONFINED SPACE OPERATIONS

- 10.2.1 The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish a uniform method of making entry into a confined space as defined by state and federal regulations. The intent of this standard complies with NJAC 12:100-9 and 29 CFR 1910.146 (Permit Required Confined Spaces). New Jersey PEOSH has adopted the federal regulations regarding confined space entry. The Washington Township Fire Department may use NFPA 1670 (Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents), NFPA 1006 (Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications), NIOSH 80-106 (Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Working in Confined Spaces), NIOSH 87-113 (A Guide to Safety in Confined Spaces), and ANSI Z117.1 (Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces) as reference documents.
- 10.2.2 This SOP shall apply to all members of the fire department and the incident commander (IC) shall take steps necessary to ensure emergency personnel outside of the fire department organization operating at the scene of a confined space incident, comply with this SOP as well.
- 10.2.3 A confined space shall be defined as an enclosed space which: a) is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work, b) has limited or restricted routes of entry or exit, c) is not designed for continuous employee occupancy, d) has, or potentially has one or more of the following, a hazardous atmosphere, an engulfment hazard, an internal configuration that could trap or asphyxiate an entrant, any other recognized serious safety or health hazards. Examples of confined spaces include but are not limited to: pits, pumping stations, pipelines, boilers, cupolas, degreasers, furnaces, septic tanks, reaction and pressure vessels, sewage digesters, sewers, silos, storage tanks, ship holds, utility vaults, vats, trenches, and excavations.
- 10.2.4 Entry into a confined space shall include anytime the respiratory system of a fire department member may be exposed or crosses the plane to the opening of a defined confined space.
- 10.2.5 An "Attendant" shall be defined as a member of the fire department stationed outside of the confined space, who has the proper training for such duty, including current certification in CPR, and who monitors the authorized entrants by various means inside the confined space.
- 10.2.6 An "Authorized Entrant" is defined as a member of the fire department who has been trained in confined space entry and who has been authorized by a trained fire department supervisor to make such entry into a confined space. A WTFD Authorized Entrant should be trained to the applicable sections of NFPA 1006 to perform a rescue from a confined space. A

WTFD Authorized Entrant does not need to comply with NFPA 1006 for non-emergency, routine entries into confined spaces for such things as maintenance, training, or certain public service assignments, but must be trained in confined space entry.

- 10.2.7 A "Qualified Person" shall be defined as a member of the fire department designated by the department, in writing, as capable by education or specialized training, or both, of anticipating, recognizing, and evaluating employee exposure to hazardous substances or other unsafe conditions in a confined space and capable of specifying necessary control or protective action both to ensure firefighter worker safety. A qualified person will usually be a fire department supervisor or a member of the fire department qualified to be a fire department supervisor.
- 10.2.8 The Washington Township Fire Department is the agency responsible for rescue, including confined space rescue, in accordance with the approved township emergency operations plan. The WTFD Incident Commander (IC) shall maintain command and control of all activities associated with a confined space rescue, especially to ensure "would be un-authorized rescuers" or entrants do not enter the confined space.
- 10.2.9 The WTFD IC, as a minimum; shall appoint an Operations Officer (OO) and a Safety Officer (SO) for all confined space incidents. The OO shall be a technical rescue trained member of WTFD. The IC, as necessary for the scope of the operations, may appoint other positions within the IMS system.
- 10.2.10 The IC shall coordinate with EMS and ensure an appropriate number of BLS and ALS services are on location including at least one (1) BLS unit assigned specifically for the confined space entry rescue team.
- 10.2.11 The IC shall coordinate with the police department to ensure adequate scene control is maintained and shall establish a staging area for incoming emergency resources internal and external of the fire department.
- 10.2.12 Prior to entry into a confined space, the IC, through the OO or other designated WTFD personnel, shall ensure the following: a) Atmospheric testing is done for LEL, toxicity, and O₂ levels, b) Supplied Air Respirator or SCBA shall be required if atmospheric testing results with LEL above 10%, O₂ is below 19.5% or above 22.5%, or toxicity is above 35 PPM, c) If possible and applicable, ventilation of the space is performed, d) A WTFD confined space permit form is completed and posted, e) An "Attendant" and "Authorized Entrants" are designated and assigned on the permit, f) Authorized Entrants wear appropriate PPE including a minimum of a class 3 harness, gloves, hardhat, an attached lifeline, appropriate respiratory protection as necessary, and other PPE as may be determined

for the situation, g) A qualified back up team of two (2) technical rescue trained WTFD members are assembled.

10.2.13 The Attendant shall maintain communications by various means with all Authorized Entrants.

10.2.14 The Attendant, the SO, the 00, or the IC, may at any time, under observed conditions order Entrants to the confined space out of the space.

10.2.15 The IC shall ensure that at the termination of a confined space rescue incident, a short debriefing of the incident occurs with as many participants as possible, but as a minimum, all participating WTFD members.

10.2.16 The written confined space entry permit shall be maintained as part of the permanent record of the incident with the incident report.