

Section 5: Safety Management Systems

Policy #12: **Confined Spaces Program**
Effective Date: **August 11, 2017**
Last Revision Date: **Original Policy**

I. Purpose

Several Town facilities and work sites expose employees to spaces considered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to be confined due to their unique configurations. Not only can these spaces hinder the movement of employees that enter them to conduct their work, but in some cases, can also present serious life threatening physical and atmospheric hazards. The Town's Confined Spaces Program serves to better protect employees affected by confined spaces by providing awareness, training, equipment standards, regulatory permitting processes, and necessary guidelines for departmental Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs).

II. Scope

The Town of Mooresville Confined Space Program applies to all employees affected by confined spaces on Town property or work sites. It is the responsibility of all employees working in both confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces to adhere to this policy, as well as all relevant departmental Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Note: Mooresville Fire Department (MFD) is exempt from this policy during emergency rescue operations and will operate in accordance with their General Orders in those circumstances.

III. Legislation/References

- 29 CFR §1910.146, Subpart J, *Permit Required Confined Spaces*
- 29 CFR §1910.94, Subpart G, *Ventilation*
- 29 CFR §1910, Subpart Z, *Toxic and Hazardous Substances*
- 29 CFR §1926.1200, Subpart AA, *Confined Spaces in Construction*
- Geddie, E. (2014). *A Guide to Safety in Confined Spaces*. Raleigh, N.C.: N.C. Dept. of Labor, Education, Training, and Technical Assistance Bureau.
- Irwin, C., & Smith, J. (2015, July 15). *OSHA's New Confined Space Standard*. OH&S.

IV. Definitions

Acceptable Entry Conditions: Conditions which must exist within a permit required confined space to allow affected employees to safely enter and work within the space.

Affected Employee: An employee that performs any type of work or assistance related to confined space entries.

Alternate Entry Procedure: Entry into a confined space in which the hazard is atmospheric only (example: not enough oxygen), and can be controlled by forced air ventilation. The entry permit must show and document, by use of air monitoring equipment, that the air in these spaces is safe for entry.