

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 603.0 Confined Space Rescue



Purpose:

The Bryan Fire Department will be the emergency response agency for all Confined Space Emergencies involving Bryan City Departments. The Fire Department will also be available to respond to Confined Space Emergencies throughout its fire district and will assist mutual aid departments upon request.

Guideline:

By definition, a Confined Space:

- Has limited or restricted means for personnel entry and exit,
- Is large enough and so configured that a person can bodily enter and perform assigned work, and
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy by people.

RESCUE PROCEDURES:

1. First arriving Fire Department unit shall contact the Confined Space Entry Supervisor/Attendant to obtain all information available from that person. Obtain Entry Permits. Check all hazards listed on permit and check air monitor reading that they compiled. Size up situation and report to responding units via the radio.
2. Determine if it is a "Rescue" or "Recovery". If "Recovery", rescuers will leave the victim in the position found, and notify the Coroner. The Fire Department will then follow the instructions of the Coroner.
3. Responding units will stage in a convenient area away from accident site until given an assignment.
4. Air Monitoring shall be done around the area of the Confine Space opening prior to setting up rescue operations. If area around Confined Space has hazardous readings all members shall wear full turnouts and SCBA while working in this area. Confined Space shall be monitored before entry is made. Check on-site meters and recheck with Fire Department meters. Entry Team shall carry a meter with them at all times, continuing to monitor area while they are in the Confined Space.
5. The Incident Command System will be established with a Safety Officer and an Operations Officer appointed as a minimum. More Officers will be appointed as needed.

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6. Entry and back-up team will don Personal Protective Equipment and prepare for entry. Two members will prepare to enter right away while other Fire
7. Department members are performing other duties. One member will be the rescuer and the second will be the back-up until another team can be established.

Note: Personal Protective Equipment shall include clothing suited to environment, appropriate safety harness with retrieval line attached, supplied air respirator with escape bottle or self contained breathing apparatus, air monitoring equipment and radio.

8. The Safety Officer shall verify that lockout / tag-out procedures are in place and shall also install Bryan Fire Department Lockouts for protection of Bryan fire personnel. Collect all keys and store at Command Post. If not in place, see that BFD lockout / tag-out procedures are done before entry is made.
9. Operations Officer should be in a position to give directions to Riggers, Attendants, Air Supply Personnel, and Entry Team. **Never lose contact with the personnel assigned these tasks.**
10. An EMS Unit will be dispatched and staged near the scene but far enough away to not interfere with rescue operations.
11. Be prepared to decontaminate victim and rescuers if necessary.

Special Notes:

- A. No one will be ordered into a confined space they are uncomfortable with, however you can be ordered out of a confined space. The Safety Officer can also stop an entry team member from entering if he sees any problem with entrant.
- B. Anytime a member is being lowered or raised, communications will only be between the rescuer being raised or lowered and the Operations Officer. If anyone on site declares an emergency all operations will cease.

The term FREEZE will be utilized to cause personnel to stop, in place, any activities they are doing. The term FREEZE will only be utilized when personnel are in imminent danger. All personnel will stop doing what they are doing, in place, without turning or moving. The person calling FREEZE will take actions to correct the hazard and to explain to other personnel why FREEZE was called.

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- C. If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry:
- Entry Team shall leave the space immediately.
 - The space shall be evaluated to determine how the hazardous atmosphere developed; and
 - Measures shall be implemented to protect Entry Team from the hazardous atmosphere before any subsequent entry takes place.
- D. Entry team will be ordered to evacuate space:
- If the Operations Officer detects a prohibited condition.
 - If the Operations Officer detects the behavioral effects of hazard exposure in the Entry Team members.
 - If the Operations Officer detects a situation outside the space that could endanger the Entry Team.
 - If the Entry Team can not effectively and safely perform the duties necessary to make the rescue or recovery.
- If Entry Team is wearing SCBA on a detached entry, the Entry Team will carry an escape bottle with them.
- E. When the Entry Team leaves the Confined Space, they will be escorted to the EMS Unit for evaluation.
- F. Once Entry Team leaves Confined Space, personnel will be interviewed and notes made of what they discovered for formal report.