PRODUCER TOOLS TOOLBOX TALKS

#14

Confined Spaces on the Farm

TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✔ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✔ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✔ Be open to questions.
- ✔ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✔ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✔ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

WORK ACTIVITY

Our farm has confined spaces that have the potential for serious safety and health hazards. Examples of confined spaces found on farms include grain bins, septic tanks, manure pits, water tanks and wells. Potential hazards in these spaces include oxygen deficient atmospheres, toxic gases, engulfment hazards and moving parts that can cause serious injury.

BACKGROUND

The defining features of a confined space are:

1. The space is enclosed or partially enclosed.
2. The space is not designed or intended for continuous human occupancy.
3. The space has limited or restricted means of entry or exits that may complicate the provision of first aid, evacuation, rescue or other emergency response services
4. The space is large enough and configured in a way that a worker could enter to perform assigned work.

Key Points

WE HAVE INTEGRATED SAFETY STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICES FOR CONFINED SPACE ENTRY ON OUR FARM. If you don't remember them, review them—you can find them:

_____

The safest approach for preventing injuries in confined spaces is to simply perform all work from outside of the confined space when possible. This isn't always possible to do. If someone must enter the space, safe entry procedures and practices (as outlined in our ISSOPs) must be strictly adhered to.

Our confined spaces are clearly labeled and the hazards of the space are communicated through our ISSOPs, if you notice a missing or damaged label or are unsure of the hazard, please talk with a supervisor.

POSSIBLE HAZARDS OF CONFINED SPACES:

Grain Bins: Lack of oxygen, engulfment in grain, dust and machinery entanglement.

Silos: Lack of oxygen, engulfment in silage, dust, toxic silo gas and machinery entanglement.

Manure Pits and Tanks: Hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane and carbon dioxide.

Wells and Water Tanks: possible toxic gases, oxygen displacement and drowning.

CAUTION

If there is no reason to enter the confined space the farm owner/operator should take whatever means possible to prevent unauthorized entry into the confined spaces. This can include prohibition of entry, signage, locking-out and other means of preventing access.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

MORE RESOURCES

Confined Space – Introduction by Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, available at http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/confinedspace_intro.html

What are some other examples of possible hazards of confined spaces?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If entry into a grain bin, silo or manure pit is unavoidable, ALL ISSOPs must be followed at all times:

1. Only enter the confined space if a supervisor has developed a plan specifically for the situation.
2. Identify the particular hazard for each confined space – this might have to be done every time a confined space is entered.
3. Identify what equipment you need to perform the work safely. This should be done with a supervisor.
4. Make sure you are working with a watchperson in case an emergency arises.
5. Talk about the work to be done with your supervisor and watchperson so everyone is aware of the task and hazards.
6. Make sure that all moving parts are shut off, locked out or blocked.
7. Make sure you are able to communicate with your watchperson at all times.

REMEMBER:

- No one is to be inside a grain bin or silo when it is being filled.
- Walking on or below bridging in a grain bin is not allowed.
- All safety equipment and personal protective equipment must be inspected before use.
- All safety equipment and personal protective equipment must be worn when performing a task.

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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_____

_____

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

CanadaFarmSafe
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This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan, or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.

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