

Subject:	CONFINED SPACE RESCUE OPERATIONS
Section:	PPG# 4400.38
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 shall approach confined space incidents with extreme caution. Direct supervision is required of all members and all safety precautions and procedures shall be strictly enforced. Operations shall be conducted in a manner, which avoids premature commitment to unknown risks.
- 1.2 It shall be the policy of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to not allow members to enter any area defined as a Confined Space.
- 1.3 All members of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 shall be trained at the "Awareness Level" in order they may identify Confined Space Hazards and make the proper notification to an outside rescue service or host of the confined space.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Confined Space:** Means space that: (1) is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work and (2) has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example; tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, land pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.); and (3) is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 During an actual rescue response, written and/or verbally recorded hazard size-up will be allowed in lieu of the written permit requirements in WAC 296-62-14507 and 296-62-14509 and shall be completed prior to any entry. This size up shall include at a minimum:
 - (a) Recognition and declaration of the situation as a confined space incident.
 - (b) Denial of entry to unprotected persons.
 - (c) Assessment of all readily available confined space documentation, e.g., MSDS's, any existing permit, plans or blueprints of the space.
 - (d) Assessment of number of victim(s), locations and injury conditions.

- (e) Discussion with witnesses, supervisor, etc.
- (f) Assessment of any current or potential space hazards, in particular, any hazard which lead, to the necessary rescue.
- (g) Determination and declaration if body recovery or victim rescue.

The following guidelines are established as consideration for making a confined space rescue.

3.2

- 3.2.1** Entry should be made based upon where the victims are and if it is a rescue or recovery as this will determine the urgency of the rescue.
- 3.2.2** Rescue should be made as a two-pronged attack if the space permits and their location inside the space is known.
- 3.2.3** Entry team members should be logged as to time of entry, name, type of breathing apparatus and bottle pressure.
- 3.2.4** Before entry and once inside the confine space, team communication systems should be checked.
- 3.2.5** Wherever possible rescue lines should be attached to the entry team.
- 3.2.6** Ventilation and air monitoring processes should be undertaken at the same time as the rescue, if possible.
- 3.2.7** Protective clothing and equipment should be worn during the rescue attempt and should consist of but not limited to helmet, fire retardant hood, gloves, emergency escape bottle, personal atmospheric monitoring, fire retardant jump suit, knee pads, and intrinsic lighting.
- 3.2.8** Establish the level of care needed for the victims being extracted and coordinate the removal between the inside and outside of the space. Remember these individuals need to be removed but not in a way that will increase their injuries while doing so.
- 3.2.9** Members who enter the space as rescuers shall work as a team and if one member of the team has to come out both members come out.

4.0 REFERENCES

WAC 296-305-05003

WAC 296-62 Part M

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .050, .060. 96-11-067 (Order 94-27), §296-305-05003, filed 05/10/96, effective 01/01/97.]