Working in confined spaces poses unique and serious hazards not normally encountered on the job. Although infrequent, PPD employees do occasionally need to access confined spaces for their maintenance work. The following Safety Talk is intended as a refresher on the hazards of confined space work, Colby confined space access procedures, and what to do in an emergency. This Safety Talk is designed for employees who have already been trained in confined space entry. Only PPD employees that have completed the classroom confined space training may participate in a confined space entry.

**Common Confined Space Hazards:**
- Oxygen deficient atmosphere
- Toxic atmosphere (CO, H₂S, solvents or other chemicals)
- Engulfment hazards (wood chips, ash)
- Burn hazards (steam)
- Electrical hazards
- Explosive hazards (natural gas leaks, paint vapor)
- Poor lighting
- Noise
- Moving Equipment

**Prior to entry, all employees on the job should:**
- Obtain a copy of the entry permit and review the hazards associated with the entry
- Ensure that the appropriate PPE, Rescue Retrieval Equipment and Communications Equipment are available and in good working condition
- Ensure all lockout/tagout is completed, correctly isolating any hazardous energy that the entrant could be exposed to
- Verify that continuous air monitoring is being conducted, utilizing the MSA multi-gas air monitor
- Notify Security with specific information related to the entry
Permitted Confined Space

Confined Space Attendant:
• Understand signs and symptoms of exposure that the entrant may exhibit
• Remain outside the space during entry operations – **Do not leave the space unattended, and do not perform any other work activities**
• Monitor atmospheric conditions at all times
• Maintain communications with entrant at all times
• Perform **non-entry rescue** and initiate emergency rescue by notifying Security

Confined Space Entrant
• Understand potential entry hazards, and be aware of signs and symptoms of exposure
• Wear PPE and rescue gear as specified on the permit
• Maintain communications with attendant at all times
• Evacuate space immediately upon notification by Entry Attendant
• Alert the attendant and exit the space immediately whenever there is a warning sign or symptom of exposure

**Always Eliminate the Hazards Before Entry!!**
• Ventilation, ventilation, ventilation!!! - Primary control for atmospheric hazards
• Hazardous Energy Control - LOTO to control electrical, pneumatic, steam and other physical hazards
• Pipe Isolation procedures:
  ➢ Blanking/blinding
  ➢ Double block and bleed
  ➢ Line breaking

**The Numbers:**

- **10%** of confined space accidents result in a fatality
- **60%** of confined space fatalities are rescuers
- **90%** of fatalities are due to low oxygen
Questions/Discussion:
1. Name 5 permit required confined spaces on Campus.
2. What are some PPE requirements to enter these spaces?
3. Can you think of any time that you were faced with an unsafe situation in a confined space? What did you do? How could Colby prevent this from happening again?

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Questions, concerns or comments contact the EHS Director at extension 5504.