

NASA-LaRC November 1996 Safety News

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Confined Spaces

Standby Personnel: It's not enough to have a standby person monitor the activities of those entering confined spaces, if that person is not properly prepared. Too many tragedies have occurred when the monitor attempts to make a rescue without protection. The standby person should be trained in the following:

- *The importance of good ventilation procedures
- *The warning signs and symptoms of exposure to the potential hazards
- *All aspects of the hazards and the test necessary to confirm that conditions are safe for entry
- *Awareness of possible behavioral changes in those workers entering the confined space
- *How to summon rescue personnel
- *Knowing the entrance area is unobstructed
- *How to administer first aid and CPR (this is not an OSHA requirement)

A standby person should never enter a confined space to attempt a rescue, unless they have been relieved of their monitoring duties. Even then, they must be trained and equipped for a rescue.

Stepladder Safety

Stepladders are virtually everywhere. Stepladders are a convenience that are used both at work and at home.

Stepladder safety is necessary to prevent falls and injuries. The following are some items that can aid in keeping safe when working with ladders.

Inspect the stepladder- Before taking the first step up, check to see that the ladder isn't bent, broken or damaged in any way. All steps should be secure and the feet of the ladder should rest flat on the floor or ground.

Set the ladder up correctly- The stepladder must be fully opened and on a level surface. It should never be placed on boxes, skids or unstable bases in an attempt to gain additional height. Special care must be taken with metal ladders to prevent contact with electrical sources.

Climb with care- Both hands should be used when climbing a ladder. Don't climb higher than the manufacturer's recommendations.

Move the ladder with the work- One of the most common mistakes made on a ladder is not moving it enough. Reaching too far to one side is an invitation for disaster.

Choose the correct ladder for the job- Be sure your ladder is tall enough, strong enough, and can accommodate you and your tools.

Proper Handling Of Solvents

The proper handling of solvents requires adequately trained personnel. Other persons should not be permitted to handle such materials. There are a number of hazards associated with solvents such as poisoning, fire, explosions, rapid evaporation, and reactions with other substances. Special care should be taken when storing solvents to assure that incompatibles are not stored together. All containers should be properly sealed and kept in suitable areas. Proper protective clothing shall be worn and the laboratory must be equipped with safety equipment needed for the hazards you may be confronted with, such as an eyewash station, a safety shower, and a fume hood. In addition to this you also need a spill kit on hand to handle any spill. There are some operations that require special ventilation hoods or systems in order to use them. Along with the specialized equipment you will also need the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) on hand. The PPE you need will vary as to what solvents you will be using but usually consists of gloves, aprons, face shields, goggles, lab coats, or other special garments.

Safety Classes Offered

Just a reminder that the following safety training classes are available to be presented for you at your safety meetings.

- Confined Spaces (permit required)
- Confined Space Awareness
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Ergonomics (Office or Industrial)
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Heat Stress
- Cryogenics
- Chemical Safety

If you would like to setup a class contact your supervisor and he can schedule by contacting Butch Jones at 4-8743.