

# NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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## SMOKE DETECTORS

Now that school has started, the cool breezes are starting to blow and we are getting ready to turn back the clocks. It is also a good time to check the batteries in our smoke detectors. During the two times a year that we change our clocks, try to make it a practice to check any alarm systems you may have around your house. After changing the batteries you should test the system for proper operation. This process only takes a few minutes of your time but could save everything you have.

## 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 procedure
- 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
- keeping the entrance area 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 he has been relieved of his monitoring duties. Even then, he must be trained and equipped for a rescue.

## "HOT WORK" PERMITS

The purpose of a work permit program is to help ensure that basic safety precautions have been taken to protect employees from the hazards associated with a particular job. A good "hot work" permit program for welding will include:

- \* Listing of employees to weld
- \* Description of the welding job to be done
- \* Location of the work
- \* Time frame that the permit covers
- \* Checking for hazards in the work area
- \* Listing of personal protective equipment required
- \* Gas or air quality test required
- \* Listing of special safety precautions on the particular job
- \* Approval signatures

## "HOT WORK" CONFINED SPACE

Working in confined spaces can be so potentially dangerous that OSHA has determined that some spaces require entry permits and NASA has established a tough standard regulating such entry (LHB 1740.2).

Welding in confined spaces presents an additional set of hazards - The potential for fire in a confined space and the possibility of being overcome by fumes. So there is a section on hot work in the confined space standard, and the welding standard also deals with welding in confined spaces (LHB 1740.2).