

Confined Spaces on the Farm Picture This



Confined spaces in craft breweries

From 2009 to 2016, 17 workers died in confined space incidents in B.C.

A confined space is an enclosed or partially enclosed area that is big enough for a worker to enter even partially. It's not designed for human occupancy and has a limited or restricted entrance or exit.

Examples include:

- Grain bins and silos
- Process tanks for raw materials and brewing chemicals
- Mash tuns, boiler tuns, kettles, and whirlpools
- Grain dust collectors

Confined space hazards:

- Toxic gases**
Such as carbon dioxide in fermentation tanks.
- Lack of oxygen**
Oxygen depletion when purging with nitrogen.
- Flammable gases**
Such as ethanol vapors.
- Temperature extremes**
In cold or well-insulated systems.
- Release of solids**
Equipment in grain silos.
- Drowning**
Falling into liquid-filled tanks.

Two B.C. workers died in a fermentation tank. One worker lost consciousness and fell into the tank after opening it and inhaling carbon dioxide gas. A fellow worker died trying to rescue him.

You are entering a confined space when your breathing zone is inside it. This includes putting your head inside the space.

Do:

- Use a gas monitor when opening any confined space that may contain a toxic gas.
- Use a tripod or cables on an extension pole to test inside a confined space.
- Only enter a confined space if you have:
 - Permission from your supervisor
 - The proper training and equipment

Don't:

- Don't enter spaces that have warning signs or labels.
- Don't put your head near an opening into a confined space that might contain a toxic gas.
- Don't try to rescue others without proper training and equipment.

All confined space hazard assessments and written entry procedures must be prepared by a qualified person with training and experience to recognize, evaluate, and control confined space hazards.

Source: <https://www.worksafebc.com>