Seven Statistics on Confined Spaces



Confined spaces, found in a wide variety of work settings, potentially contain a host of hazards. Here are seven statistics to know about these potentially deadly areas.

1. **1** confined space fatality occurs every four days on average in workplaces across the United States. (US Department of Labor)
2. Toxic gases present **2** risks: chemical asphyxiation (smothering) and irritation to the human respiratory system, skin and eyes.
3. **4** dangers of confined spaces are oxygen deficiency or oxygen enrichment; fire/explosion; the potential to drown in liquids or solids; and toxic atmospheres.
4. **10** examples of confined spaces are vessels, tanks, storage bins, silos, vaults, pits, manholes, sewers, septic systems and pipelines.
5. About **50** percent of deaths in confined spaces in Canada result from insufficient oxygen. (Labour, Government of Canada)
6. **60** percent the people who die in confined spaces are would-be rescuers attempting to help fallen co-workers. (OSHA)
7. **61** percent of confined space fatalities in the US occur during construction, repair or cleaning activities. (US Department of Labor)