

Written Confined Space Program

University of South Carolina Lancaster

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Section 1. Program Statement

1.1 Confined Space Program

The University of South Carolina Lancaster will maintain a healthy work environment in an ongoing effort to protect each employee from potentially harmful agents. It is the goal of the University to ensure that employees will at no time suffer any adverse health effects related to their work environment. In the attainment of this goal, the University of South Carolina Lancaster, through the USC Safety Program Guide, Section C.13, has implemented a Confined Space Program.

In the ongoing control of injuries and deaths that may occur from improper entry into confined spaces, the primary objectives of the are: reduce the number of confined spaces (when feasible); limit the number of confined spaces entries; eliminate potential hazards within the confined spaces before entry; and protect employees from recognized and potential hazards when they must enter a confined space.

A sound and effective Confined Space Program is an essential aspect in ensuring that employees required to enter and work in confined spaces are properly trained and protected from associated health hazards.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide specific procedures/safe work practices for employees required to enter confined spaces. These procedures/practices will be implemented in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations pertaining to confined space entry.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the Confined Space program at the University of South Carolina Lancaster include:

- To comply with all state and federal regulations regarding confined spaces.
- To assess the feasibility of reducing the total number of confined spaces.
- To limit the number of confined space entries.
- To eliminate potential hazards within the confined spaces prior to entry.
- To establish and implement a permit system for entry into confined spaces.
- To train employees who may work in confined spaces on proper procedures and entry techniques.

Section 2. Regulations/References

2.1 Regulations

Regulations/references pertaining to the Confined Spaces Program are found in the following publications:

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Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry (29 CFR 1910.146).

Section 3. Responsibilities/Resources Employed

3.1 Departmental Safety Manager:

Heyward B. Lucas, Jr., Director of Campus Safety, serves as the first contact for issues concerning the departmental confined space program. The Director of Campus Safety is responsible for establishing a written Confined Space Program that includes evaluations of the confined spaces entered by the department. He/she is responsible for establishing and maintaining a training program that will provide exposed employees with the understanding, knowledge, and skills necessary for safe and proper work in confined spaces. The Director of Campus Safety shall review the Confined Space Program, using the canceled permits, at least once per year, and shall revise the program as necessary to ensure that employees participating in entry operations are protected from confined space hazards. Each department is responsible for providing employees with the equipment required to properly enter confined spaces. EHS is available to provide training on proper confined space entry techniques, recommend safety equipment, and assist in confined space evaluations.

3.2 Area Supervisors:

The Director of Campus Safety will be responsible for identifying workers that may be expected to enter confined spaces, ensuring that these workers receive required training before entering the spaces, and ensuring that their subordinates follow established entry procedures.

3.3 Entry Supervisors:

Entry Supervisors are the persons responsible for determining if acceptable entry conditions are present at a confined space where entry is planned, authorizing entry, overseeing entry operations, and terminating entry when required.

Entry Supervisors for this facility are listed below:

- 1) Heyward Lucas
- 2) Greg Parker
- 3)
- 4)

3.4 Trained and Qualified Entrants

Trained and qualified entrants are responsible for working in confined spaces according to guidelines and work practices established by the University of South Carolina Lancaster. Qualified entrants are also responsible for refusing to work in confined spaces until an entry supervisor has deemed entry to be safe and has given approval for entry, or if a hazard is identified while working in the confined space.

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Qualified Entrants are:

- 1) Greg Parker
- 2) Heyward Lucas
- 3) Larry Duncan
- 4)

3.5 Training Frequency

Confined Space training will occur: before initial assignment to jobs that would require entry into confined spaces; when there is a change in assigned duties; when a change in permit space operations create a new hazard; whenever an employee deviates from established procedure; and when inadequacies in an employee's knowledge is identified.

Confined space training will establish employee proficiency in the duties required by the confined space standard.

Training documents will include the employee's name, signature of the trainer, and the dates of the training.

3.6 Training Content:

The training programs established for University of South Carolina Lancaster include confined space identification, proper gas meter operation, rescue procedures, ventilation techniques, permit completion techniques, and the location of permit confined spaces used by USC Lancaster. A copy of the established training program is available on the University of South Carolina EHS website.

Section 4. Confined Space Listing

USC Lancaster currently has no areas identified.

Section 5. Entry Permits/Classification of Spaces

5.1 Confined Space Evaluations:

All confined spaces will be evaluated to determine their classification (non-permit, permit required) and to develop proper entry procedures.

When performing confined space evaluations, air monitoring and inspections will be conducted from outside the space. If evaluations cannot be performed from outside the space, the space will be entered through permit procedures.

A copy of the established confined space evaluation sheet is attached at the end of this Program (Appendix A)

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5.2 Permit Required Spaces:

Some confined spaces located at USC Lancaster that meet the definition of a Permit Procedure confined space. The permit used for Permit Procedures entry is included at the end of this program (Appendix B). This permit includes the following: department/trade shop, location of space, purpose of entry, emergency contact, additional needed permits, possible hazards present, methods of hazard elimination, initial gas checks, periodic gas checks, entry authorization signature/date, and time in/time out form.

Section 6. Prevention of Unauthorized Entry

6.1 Posting of Confined Spaces

All Confined Spaces that can be readily labeled are posted in a manner designed to inform employees of the existence/location of the dangerous space. The signs read as follows:

Some spaces, such as manholes, are difficult to label in the above-described manner. When labeling is not feasible, training and education will be used to inform employees of the location/classification of the confined space.

6.2 Other Necessary Precautions

If it is concluded that posting and training are inadequate to prevent unauthorized entry into permit spaces, covers, guardrails, fences, locks or other methods of restricting access shall be considered and implemented.

Section 7. Entry Procedures

7.1 Entry Procedures:

Entry procedures have been developed for each confined space entered by USC Lancaster. Specific entry procedures are attached at the end of this program.

Section 8. Rescue Procedures

8.1 Outside Rescue Services

Since no confined spaces have been identified at USC Lancaster, there is currently no need for contacting outside rescue services.

8.2 Emergency Procedures:

USC Lancaster will implement procedures when a space is identified.

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8.3 Rescue Methods

OSHA encourages rescues through methods that do not involve entry by rescuers into confined space. Attendants should only provide rescue services from outside the space and should not enter the space to offer rescue services. The attendant and/or the Entry Supervisor are responsible for preventing unauthorized persons in attempting a rescue inside the confined space.

Section 9. Entry Equipment

9.1 Available Equipment:

USC Lancaster has no confined space entry equipment.