Confined Spaces Permit Required – Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

Key hazards related to confined spaces that require a permit in the landscaping industry.

1. **Oxygen Deficiency:** Confined spaces may have insufficient oxygen levels, particularly in areas like storage tanks, septic systems, or underground vaults.
2. **Toxic Atmospheres:** Confined spaces can accumulate toxic gases such as hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, or methane, often without any visual warning signs.
3. **Engulfment Hazards:** Workers in confined spaces like trenches, pits, or silos may be at risk of engulfment by loose materials such as soil, sand, or mulch. This can result in suffocation.
4. **Limited Access and Egress:** Confined spaces often have restricted entrances and exits, making it difficult for workers to escape in an emergency or for rescuers to access them.
5. **Atmospheric Explosions:** The accumulation of flammable gases or vapors in confined spaces can lead to explosive atmospheres.
6. **Physical Hazards:** Confined spaces may contain physical hazards such as machinery with moving parts, electrical equipment, or sharp objects.
7. **Lack of Communication:** Poor communication is a significant risk in confined spaces, where workers may be isolated from others. This can delay emergency response and increase the severity of incidents.

STATS

- From 2011 to 2018, there were 1,030 confined space entry fatalities across all fifty states.
- (CCOHS) highlights that confined spaces are responsible for multiple fatalities each year across various industries, with improper hazard assessment being a leading cause.
- According to OSHA, nearly 60% of confined space fatalities involve would-be rescuers. This statistic underscores the dangers involved in confined space work, particularly in environments like landscaping, where workers may

enter confined spaces without proper training or equipment.
- (BLS) reports that approximately 92 fatalities occur annually in confined spaces across all industries.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that confined spaces contribute to a significant number of injuries, with the general injury rate for confined space incidents as high as 50% of all entries.