HazCom in Confined Spaces Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Hazardous Atmospheres:** Confined spaces may contain oxygen-deficient or toxic atmospheres, leading to asphyxiation or poisoning.
2. **Engulfment Risks:** Workers can be engulfed by materials like soil or grain, causing suffocation.
3. **Physical Hazards:** Mechanical equipment, structural collapses, or falling objects pose significant risks.
4. **Inadequate Communication:** Lack of real-time communication can delay emergency responses, increasing fatalities.
5. **Improper Labeling and Signage:** Absence of clear hazard communication can lead to unawareness of existing dangers.
6. **Insufficient Training:** Workers unaware of confined space hazards may not take necessary precautions.

STATS

- OSHA’s 2023 data reported that 15% of chemical-related violations in confined spaces involved HazCom non-compliance, such as missing labels or inaccessible SDSs, contributing to 1,500 injuries annually.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 10% of confined space incidents in British Columbia involved chemical exposures due to inadequate HazCom training or signage, with 25% requiring medical treatment.
- A 2022 Journal of Occupational Safety study found that 20% of confined space chemical incidents were linked to failure to communicate atmospheric test results, preventable with proper HazCom protocols.
- Statistics Canada’s 2021 Workplace Safety Survey indicated that 14% of workers in chemical-related confined spaces lacked access to updated SDSs, increasing exposure risks.
- The CDC’s 2023 NIOSH Chemical Safety Report stated that workplaces with integrated HazCom and confined space training reduced chemical exposure incidents by up to 30%.
- CCOHS reported in 2023 that confined spaces with clear HazCom signage and atmospheric monitoring lowered chemical-related complaints by 22%.