

Preventing Hero Culture: When Good Intentions Create Risk Fatality File



Worker Killed Attempting Unplanned Rescue in Confined Space

A worker entered a confined space tank to perform maintenance when hazardous conditions developed inside the space. The worker became unresponsive due to lack of oxygen. Seeing this, a second worker immediately entered the confined space to rescue their coworker—without proper equipment, atmospheric testing, or a rescue plan in place.

The second worker was also overcome within seconds. Both workers were later recovered by emergency responders, but **both died as a result of asphyxiation**. Investigations found that the incident escalated because of an **unplanned rescue attempt**, lack of proper confined space procedures, and absence of a trained rescue system. This type of incident is a well-documented OSHA pattern, where good intentions lead to multiple fatalities.

Source: <https://www.osha.gov/>