

## RESCUE OF PERSONNEL IN CONFINED SPACES AT SNL/NM

### General Requirements and Advance Notification

The Contractor Entry Supervisor (also known as the Supervisor Authorizing Entry) is responsible for the following:

- Providing advance notification of the confined space entry activity to SNL On Duty Incident Commander (IC) **PHONE: 844-4189 (24-hour duty phone)** to verify that rescue services are available. Advance notification must occur by phone on a daily basis for the duration of the entry activity. If additional written information is requested by the SNL/IC, it may be faxed to 844-6533. **NOTE:** Do not fax entry notification, phone contact must be established with the IC prior to work.
- Ensuring that the means for summoning emergency response/rescue personnel is operable and readily available.
- Notifying the IC when the entry activity is terminated. As with notification, termination must occur on a daily basis for the duration of the activity.
- Selecting the retrieval equipment and determining if the use of the equipment would increase the overall risk of entry and would not contribute to the rescue.
- Identify alternate means for the Rescue Service to contact the Entry Supervisor (cellular, pager, radio, etc.) in the event emergency services become unavailable during the entry period.
- Ensuring all equipment and instrumentation is inspected prior to use to ensure proper working condition. Equipment shall be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's requirements.
- Posting the entry permit at the entry site.
- If chemical materials are used in the confined space, the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be attached to the permit.

### I. Non-Entry Extraction of Confined Space Entrant(s)

Should it become necessary to extract personnel from a confined space, it is essential that all personnel involved know exactly what to do and what not to do. There have been several instances where persons who were trying to rescue an individual in a confined space also became victims, because of failure to follow the proper procedures. The Attendant may retrieve a victim wearing a retrieval line from a confined space if this is possible without additional help **and does not require entry by the Attendant**. Typical retrieval/extraction equipment includes tripod, wincher (mechanical lifting device), retrieval line, and body harness. Retrieval equipment is not required for Non-Permit Confined Spaces; however, strong consideration should be given to spaces which present unique rescue difficulty due to location (such as remote areas), space configuration, or other elements.

The hazards associated with work in confined spaces include possible exposure to the following:

1. Oxygen deficient atmospheres (Less than 19.5%)
2. Oxygen enriched atmospheres (Greater than 23.5%)
3. Atmospheres containing flammable gas or dust
4. Atmospheres containing toxic substances or biological hazards
5. Mechanical or physical hazards

**II. CONFINED SPACE EMERGENCY: ENTRY RESCUE:** The SNL/Emergency Management Dept. and KAFB Fire Dept. provide entry rescue/responder service for confined spaces at SNL/NM.

- **PRIMARY: Contact: SNL/On Duty Incident Commander** (service during standard working hours, Monday-Friday) **PHONE: 844-4189; or 844-0911 from a cellular phone; or 911 from an SNL phone**
- **SECONDARY: Contact: Kirtland Air Force Base** (service after standard hours and weekends) **PHONE: 846-8069; FAX: 846-6569.** Also notify the SNL/IC.

**NOTE:** In Technical Areas or "limited access" areas where the use of cellular phones is prohibited, communication radios suitable for contacting emergency response services, are available from the Construction Inspection and Acceptance Group. Instructions for radio use are also available from the Construction Group.