



OH&S Safety Matters

Fire Blanket Safety Devices

Fire safety is important for businesses everywhere. Two important tools for combating fires are fire extinguishers and fire blankets, each with its own set of advantages and applications. This article provides insight into the benefits of businesses having fire blankets on-site to ensure optimal safety.

A fire blanket is a safety device that is used to smother small fires or to wrap around a person whose clothing is on fire. Fire blankets are made from fire-resistant materials, such as fiberglass, wool, or Kevlar, and are designed to resist burning, or melting when exposed to high temperatures.

There are three main kinds of Fire Blankets – Fiberglass, wool, and silicone coated fire blankets. Below we discuss when to use each.

Fiberglass fire blankets: Because fiberglass fire blankets are used to smother out small fires and doesn't use any chemicals, it is ideal for chemical based fires, oil-based fires, or anything where water or standard fire extinguishers can't extinguish.

Wool fire blankets: These are used to smother larger fires in a larger area. Typically you will see these being used in large industrial settings, wildfire settings, or any large work area.

Silica fire blankets: These are used to smother fires caused by welding or cutting, and are also great for wrapping around the body. You will find these as standard rectangular blankets or cloaks purposely designed to be worn to exit a fire or put fire out on a person's clothing.

Employees may come into contact with hot surfaces or flames. Fire blankets are an essential piece of safety equipment in the workplace, and knowing when to use them is crucial. Fire blankets can be used to extinguish small fires caused by cooking, hot work, electrical equipment, chemical spills, and employee clothing. It is essential to have a fire blanket readily available and to ensure that all employees are aware of when and how to use it.

May Issue 2025



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Confined Space

Canadian legislation clearly identifies that confined spaces have a history of being potentially dangerous places to work. This is because hazards within them are magnified.

Limited access may be combined with poor ventilation, hazardous surroundings or energized equipment. When workers unknowingly enter oxygen deficient or toxic atmospheres, the results can be fatal.

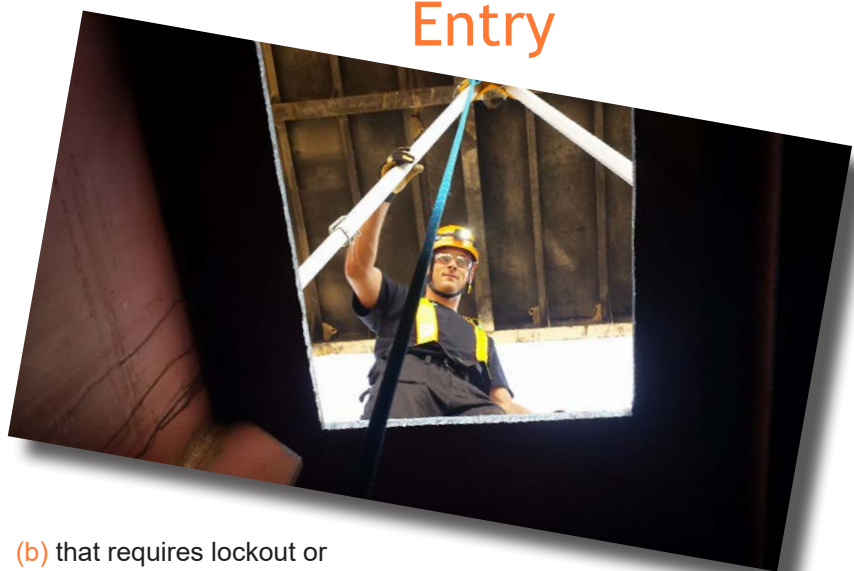
Confined spaces are potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplaces, however **the goal of this course is to prepare you to safely perform work in a confined space.**

The Occupational Health and Safety regulation requires that each confined space in the workplace be identified. It must also be determined whether any such space will require entry by a worker. Each point of access to the confined space is to be secured against entry or identified by a sign.

Before a worker is permitted to enter a confined space, a written Confined Space Entry Program must be implemented. Written procedures specifying the means to eliminate or control all hazards must be developed. Hazards are identified based on conducting formal hazard assessment(s).

An entry permit is completed and signed by the responsible supervisor before a worker enters a confined space that:

(a) has high hazard atmosphere,



- (b) that requires lockout or isolation procedures, or
- (c) has a hazard of entrapment or engulfment.

An entry permit is a document that identifies the work to be done, the hazard(s) involved that must be controlled or eliminated and the precautions to be taken. An entry permit must be posted at each designated point of entry to a confined space.

Prior to work taking place in a confined space, adjacent piping which contains or has contained a harmful substance must be controlled by disconnecting, blanking or blinding, or equivalent engineered system.

Lockout, disconnection, blanking or blinding of pipes is to comply with engineering standards.

In addition a means is to be provided to safely release any stored energy from equipment prior to the commencement of work. Pre-entry testing and inspection must be conducted to verify that the precautions have been effective at controlling the

Entry

identified hazards and that it is safe for a worker to enter.

Whenever it is practicable, the continuous monitoring of the atmosphere must be done if the confined space could expose a worker to the risk of death, incapacitation, or otherwise impair the ability of the worker to escape in the event of a failure of a ventilation system or respirator.

All workers entering a confined space must wear appropriate PPE including respirators in circumstances where clean repairable air is not maintained.

If a confined space is known, or shown by pre-entry testing to contain other than clean respirable air, the hazard must be controlled by cleaning, purging or venting the space and the atmosphere must be retested before a worker enters the space.

The ventilation of a confined space is provided through natural means, or mechanical means.

Every confined space must be ventilated continuously while a worker is inside the space.

A “**low hazard atmosphere**” is shown by pre-entry testing or otherwise known to contain clean respirable air immediately prior to entry. **If a worker enters a low hazard atmosphere the standby person must check on the well-being of workers inside the space at least every 20 minutes.**

A “**Moderate hazard atmosphere**” means an atmosphere that is not clean respirable air but is not likely to impair the ability of the worker to escape unaided from a confined space, in the event of a failure of the ventilation system or respirator. **A standby person must be stationed at or near the entrance to the space, and the standby person must visually observe the well-being of the worker(s) inside the space at least every 20 minutes.**

If a worker enters a confined space which contains a “**high hazard atmosphere**”, a risk of engulfment or entrapment or any other serious health or safety hazard, **the standby person(s)**

must be stationed at the entrance to the confined space and must continuously monitor the well being of the worker(s).

The standby person must be equipped with suitable lifting equipment if necessary to permit rescue.

The employer must provide for the services of rescue persons when a worker enters a confined space. Rescue or evacuation from a confined space must be directed by a supervisor who is adequately trained or who is a qualified rescue person.

The OH&S **Confined Space Entry Program** can be delivered in a 6:30 hour content format with a 60 minute lunch & two 15 minute nutrition breaks over an 8:00 hour day.

Upon successful completion a certification card will be issued with a 3 year validation period.

Get Your Instructor Certification so that you can deliver more effective training !



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Crossword Puzzle Answers

Here are the answers to the **April** Safety Matters Crossword Puzzle.

Shrink Fitting Liquid Nitrogen

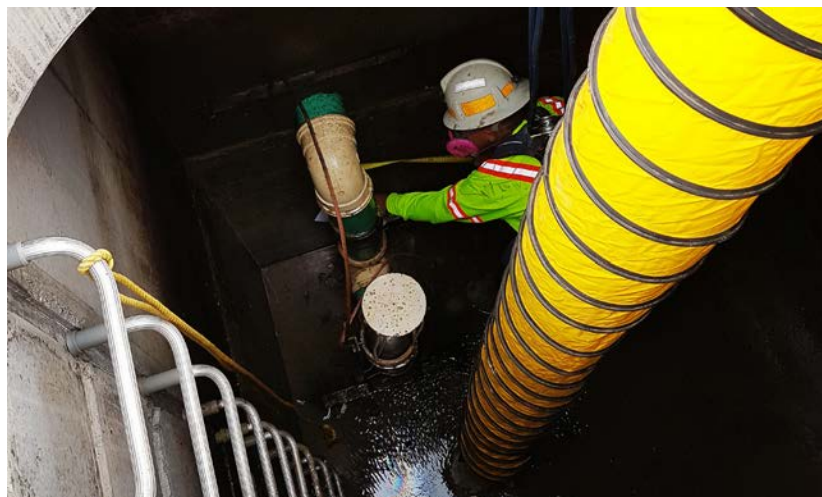
Across

5. Dolly
6. Faceshield
7. Refrigerant
9. Evaporate
10. Ventilation
11. Oxygen

Down

1. Frostbite
2. Cylinder
3. Administrative
4. Dewar
8. Decanting

Upcoming challenge solve the Confined Space Entry Crossword Puzzle on the next page Play Now!



[illegible]

Clues for the Confined Space Entry Crossword Puzzle

Select a clue from the 'across' or 'down' lists. Think up possible answers to the clue.

Each across and down clue is assigned a unique number. This number corresponds to the number for its answer in the grid. Words in the crossword puzzle will cross each other, this is the source of inspiration for the name of the game, crossword!

Who can complete the crossword challenge. Save your progress, the correct answers to the crossword challenge will be revealed in the next issue of *Safety Matters*

Across

3. Is the process by which a confined space is removed from service and completely protected from the release of energy and material into the space.
5. Is verifying whether a gas instrument is functioning properly and giving the correct readout within the limits specified by the manufacturer of the span gas.
7. Is the abbreviation for any condition that poses an immediate threat to life or that would cause irreversible adverse health effects or that would interfere with an individual's ability to escape unaided from a confined space.
9. The individual stationed outside a confined space to monitor and protect the entrants inside the confined space.
10. Is the action by which a person passes through an opening into a confined space.
12. Is the abbreviation for the maximum concentration of vapour or gas in air above which propagation of flame does not occur on contact with a source of ignition.
13. Is the displacement of the atmosphere in a confined space by a noncombustible gas (such as nitrogen) to such an extent that the resulting atmosphere is noncombustible.

Down

1. Is the person responsible for determining whether acceptable entry conditions exist, for authorizing entry, overseeing entry operations, and for terminating entry.
2. Is the process of installing a lock on an energy-isolating device such as a circuit breaker, disconnect switch, or shut-off valve that prevents the device from being operated
4. Is a method of closing off a pipe by installing a solid cap or plate so that the pipe's bore is completely covered.
6. Is the abbreviation that refers to concentrations of airborne toxic materials that have been averaged over an eight-hour working day.
8. Is the surrounding and effective capture of a person by a liquid or finely divided (flowable) solid substance that can be aspirated to cause death by filling or plugging the respiratory system or that can exert enough force on the body to cause death by strangulation, constriction, or crushing.
11. Is diluting the concentration of the contaminant before it reaches the worker's breathing zone by mixing with uncontaminated air.

Come-on Guys Clean it up !



In a bygone era, Spring Cleaning was an annual ritual that was held in the spring mostly because it was getting warm enough to open windows and doors.

Got the urge to clean-up at work ! Poor cleaning can contribute to accidents by hiding hazards that cause injuries. **Cleaning includes keeping work areas free of slip and trip hazards; and removing fire hazards from work areas.** Effective housekeeping is an ongoing operation, there is no reason to wait for spring. A good cleaning program will assign

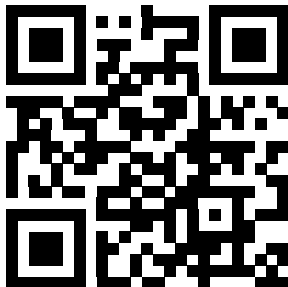
responsibilities for the following:

- clean up during the shift,
- day-to-day cleanup,
- waste disposal,
- removal of unused materials,
- inspection after clean-up.

Improved workers' attitudes is an advantage to maintaining good housekeeping practices that help ensure neat, organized, and safe workspaces, which can reduce stress and improve morale. An increase in productivity and lower operating costs may also result when workers spend less time tracking down a needed tool.

For more Information

Point your smartphone camera at this QR code and take a picture to be redirected to the OH&S Registry Website. www.ohsregistry.com



Head Office 825 – B Laval Crescent Kamloops, BC V2C 5P2
Western Region **ph: 778.957.6407** **Eastern Region** **ph: 647.250.7646**

OH&S Safety Training Solutions 778.423.6407

Classroom Based - Instructor Led Safety Training

	ATV and UTV Operator Our ATV and UTV Operator course has been developed for those with an occupational requirement to be trained to safely undertake work activities that involve the operation of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) and/or utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The goal of this course is to help you better understand what an ATV and UTV Operator responsibilities are and how to manage those responsibilities to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of your co-workers.
	Boom Trucks, Holes and Riggers This training program encompasses activities that involve the operation of Light Duty Boom Trucks (with a rated capacity of less than five tons with a boom length of less than 25 feet based on the manufacturer's rated capacity), holes and the rigging of loads. Only qualified persons trained in the inspection, application, and operation of a crane or hoist, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation, shall operate the equipment.
	Confined Space Entry - General Industry Confined spaces are potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplaces, however the goal of this course is to prepare you to safely perform work in a confined space. By the end of this course you will be able to describe a confined space, describe various hazards and know how to handle hazards that are identified, you will understand the confined space permit system and about something going terribly wrong, you will know how to effect a non entry rescue.
	Confined Space Entry - Mining Industry The Mines Act and the accompanying Health, Safety and Rehabilitation Code for mines in British Columbia the Code protect workers health and safety and enforce legislation related to confined space activities. This legislation obligates the mine manager to ensure that written procedures are developed and each person who is assigned duties or responsibilities related to entry into a confined space is adequately trained. This course will provide you with the information that is needed to implement a Confined Space Entry Program.
	Confined Space Rescue Basics The occupational health and safety regulation requires the employer to prepare a written confined space entry program that includes procedures for rescue. This course will provide the information used to establish an individual confined space rescue response and the training that is needed to prepare individuals to implement rescue operations. It takes a mix of prevention, planning, preparation, training and communication to create and sustain an effective Confined Space Rescue response.

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2025 e-Catalogue is Available

Are you ready to tap into a wider network of training programs. Get access to 100% of the OH&S safety training programs by simply sending an e-mail and asking for a FREE copy of the OH&S training course library !

info@ohsregistry.com

Staying in Touch

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