

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## CONFINED SPACES

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit [hollandcs.com/toolboxtalks](https://hollandcs.com/toolboxtalks).

## BE AWARE

- A confined space is any enclosed space where there is a risk of death or serious injury from hazardous substances or dangerous conditions (e.g., lack of oxygen)
- Some are easy to identify (storage tanks, silos, enclosed drains, sewers, etc). Others are less obvious, but equally dangerous (open-topped chambers, vats, furnace combustion chambers, ductwork and unventilated or poorly ventilated rooms)

## THE DANGERS

- Lack of oxygen
- Poisonous gases, fumes or vapors
- The unexpected rush of liquids, gases or solids into a space
- Fire and explosions (from flammable vapors, excess oxygen, etc.)
- High concentrations of dust
- Extreme heat leading to dangerous increases in body temperature

## SAFETY TIPS

- Can the work be done another way? Work-planning or a different approach can often reduce the need for confined space working
- Make use of safe systems for working inside such spaces
- Ensure the entrance is large enough for rescue workers to quickly access a worker in need
- Harness workers to lifelines running to the outside of the space
- Improve ventilation with additional holes or vents. Mechanical ventilation may be necessary to ensure an adequate supply of fresh air
- Use non-sparking tools and specially protected lighting where flammable or potentially explosive atmospheres are likely
- Do not try to sweeten the air in a confined space with oxygen. This can greatly increase the risk of a fire or explosion

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Holland assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state or federal statutes or regulations.



*A Better Way*  
• TO BUILD •