

***** IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE *****

DATE: January 31, 2007
TO: University Personnel Involved With Entry Into Confined Spaces
FROM: Steven C. Holland, Director
SUBJECT: **Confined Space Entries**

Previously, under the UA's Confined Space Entry Program "Conditional Confined Space Entry Procedure," it was allowable to substitute ventilation for air testing, to enter a confined space if all of the following conditions were met:

1. All non-atmospheric hazards were eliminated;
2. The space was not known to contain any toxic or flammable materials or residues;
3. The only potential atmospheric hazard was oxygen deficiency;
4. The atmosphere was not expected to change, and
5. The space was force-ventilated from a clean source with at least 7 air-changes before entry and at least 1 air-change every 3 minutes during entry (air changes calculated using a manhole purging chart).

The Arizona Department of Occupational Safety & Health (ADOSH) has retracted a previous interpretation that allowed this conditional, air testing substitution. **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY - AIR TESTING MUST BE CONDUCTED FOR ALL CONFINED SPACE ENTRIES.** Air testing must be conducted by Risk Management & Safety or by a RM&S-designated, qualified representative.

Due to RM&S's very limited staffing, be aware that you will be subject to our schedules for air testing services. Units requiring air testing services should schedule with RM&S as far in advance as possible. If you have more than occasional need to enter confined spaces, if your facility is off site, or if emergency confined space entries are required, you should consider procuring your own air testing equipment and supplies (i.e., calibration gas) and have RM&S train designated personnel in your unit to be qualified air testers. You may also consider procuring the services of RM&S-recommended, qualified health and safety consultant.

Employees who enter and work within confined spaces face potential significant risks to life and health. The UA's Confined Space Entry Program provides a framework for managing these risks. Visit <http://risk.arizona.edu/healthandsafety/confinedspace.shtml> for more information or contact Frank Demer at RM&S (621-3585 or demer@email.arizona.edu) for assistance.