



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**CONFINED SPACE – INITIAL COMPANY ACTIONS**

**SOG: 048**

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Page: 1 of 3

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**Purpose:** This SOG establishes guidelines for initial actions at the scene of a confined space incident and is written to comply with the intent of NFPA 1670 at the awareness level.

### **Definitions**

#### Confined Space

A confined space is any area or vessel which meets all three of the following criteria:

- Is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter and perform work.
- Has limited means of entry or exit.
- Is not engaged for continuous occupancy.

#### Permit-Required Confined Space

A permit-required confined space is defined as confined spaces which have one of more of the following:

- Contains or has potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- Contains a material with potential for engulfment.
- Is structured so that an entrant could become trapped or asphyxiated.
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard – i.e. moving parts, noise.

#### Recovery Mode

Recovery mode is defined as a situation in which a victim is obviously expired, or after a determined time during the rescue operation where time, conditions, or other factors have reduced the chance for the victim's survival to minimal.

#### Rescue Mode

Rescue mode is defined as a situation in which the victim is believed or known to be alive. If this is unknown, personnel should operation in the rescue mode until time, conditions, or other elements minimize the chance for survival.

### **Guideline**

Confined space rescue operations present a significant danger to fire department personnel. The safe and effective management of these operations requires special consideration and resources. Examples of possible confined spaces include tunnels, sewers, tanks, process vessels, manholes, storm drains, furnaces, and industrial spaces.

Initial arriving GFD companies function at the AWARENESS level. **Therefore, it is the policy of the Department that personnel SHALL NOT a confined space.** Entry is defined as breaking the plane of the opening to the confined space.

Examples of activities and functions appropriate at the AWARENESS level include:

- Recognition of a confined space incident.
- Recognition of confined space hazards.



## CONFINED SPACE – INITIAL COMPANY ACTIONS

- Performing a non-entry retrieval.
- Identifying resource needs.
- Initiating response of operations and/or technician level personnel.
- Establishing scene control and management.

### Response

The standard response to any reported confined space incident is referenced in SOG 003. Upon confirmation of a confined space incident with a person(s) trapped, or believed to be trapped, the alarm should be upgraded per GFD and MABAS protocol.

### Arrival Assessment

The first arriving officer should establish command and complete an initial size-up, including:

- Secure any witnesses.
- Obtain the confined space entry permit and any other available information.
- Location, number, condition of victims, and length of time in the confined space.
- Utility and other scene hazards – i.e. hazardous materials, low oxygen levels.
- Type of work being performed in the confined space.
- Type of PPE being used by victims(s).
- Determination of rescue or recovery mode.
- Determination of additional resources needed.
- Properly complete the GFD Confined Space Entry Permit.

### Scene Safety

- Ensure hot, warm, and cold zones (utilize barrier tape and natural boundaries).
- Ensure that unauthorized/untrained personnel do not enter the confined space.
- Confirm or implement lock out/tag out.

### Initial Operations

If a victim is attached to a body harness and retrieval line, the rescuers may lift the victim from the confined space area provided that the following matters are addressed:

- Attempt to establish contact with victim(s).
- Establish atmospheric monitoring.
- If safe to do so, and if it can be accomplished from outside the confined space, shutdown non-essential equipment that is located within the confined space.
- Establish a staging area for additional apparatus and personnel.

### References

NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents. 2009 edition  
OSHA: 29CFR 1910.146



**CONFINED SPACE – INITIAL COMPANY ACTIONS  
CHECKLIST**

STRATEGY:  RESCUE  RECOVERY - Secure site and await Technician-level personnel

<b>ARRIVAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Locate and secure witness	<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain confined space permit and other available information
	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete an initial size-up <span style="float: right;">NOTES</span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Victim location, number, and condition</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Length of time in confined space</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Utility and other hazards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Type of PPE in use by victim</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Determine RESCUE or RECOVERY mode</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request additional resources</li> </ul>	

<b>SCENE SAFETY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm and/or Implement Lock out/Tag out	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that unauthorized or untrained personnel do not enter the trench space
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish CONTROL ZONES <span style="float: right;">NOTES</span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> HOT</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> WARM</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> COLD</li> </ul>	

<b>INITIAL OPERATIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> If victim is attached to a body harness or retrieval line, lift the victim from the confined space area (Based on risk assessment)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt to establish contact with victim(s)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish atmospheric testing	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish ventilation of confined space after monitoring the area
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shut down non-essential equipment inside of confined space, if possible to do from outside the confined space	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a staging area for the arrival of additional apparatus, personnel and equipment

**DO NOT ALLOW UNTRAINED PERSONNEL WITHIN THE HOT ZONE OR TO ENTER THE CONFINED SPACE  
REQUEST TECHNICAL-LEVEL PERSONNEL AND PREPARE TO SUPPORT A RESCUE MISSION**