

# Confined Space Rescue Program

Guy's Construction  
123 Main Street, Anytown, CA 90210

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29 CFR 1926.1211 / 29 CFR 1926.1204(a)

Effective Date: June 08, 2026

**SAMPLE DOCUMENT - NOT FOR COMPLIANCE USE**

## JURISDICTION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Confined space rescue in construction is governed by:

- 29 CFR 1926.1211: rescue and emergency services for permit-required confined spaces
- 29 CFR 1926.1204(a): entry employer must provide rescue before entry is authorized
- 29 CFR 1926.1204(e): retrieval systems required unless infeasible

### STATE-SPECIFIC: California has additional requirements:

- rescue equipment and trained personnel
- procedures for rescuing entrants, providing emergency services to rescued employees, summoning additional rescue and emergency services, and
- atmospheric testing, ventilation, and rescue procedures
- carbon monoxide poisoning or asphyxiation
- 102 dBA for 1.5 hours
- promptly but not later than 24 hours after discovery
- shall have a minimum width of three feet
- construction, modification, and major repair of tunnels, shafts, caissons, chambers, passageways, cofferdams, any other aspect of tunnel construction
- a one-to-one basis (i.e., 1 L equals 1 kg)
- procedures for emergency evacuation including type of evacuation and exit route assignments
- procedures to be followed by employees performing rescue or medical duties
- designate and train a sufficient number of persons to assist in the safe and orderly emergency evacuation of employees
- procedures to account for all employees after emergency evacuation has been completed
- 0.60
- the Administrator
- a pipeline system
- surface hole location footages from the quarter section with latitude and longitude
- all documents that are applicable to the appeal
- types of evacuation to be used in emergency circumstances
- 29 CFR 1926.1203(g)(2): 29 CFR 1926.1204 through 1926.1211
- permit-space entry requirements in §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211 when remaining hazards do not endanger life or interfere with escape
- 29 CFR 1926.1203(e)(1)(iv): in compliance with §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211
- 29 CFR 1926.953(a): permit-space entry requirements contained in §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211 if hazards remaining in the enclosed space do not endanger the life
- 29 CFR 1926.1209(d): if the employer's permit space program allows attendant entry for rescue and the attendant has been trained and equipped for rescue operations
- where showers are not provided, that employees wash their hands and face at the end of the work-shift
- by vacuuming or other methods that minimize the likelihood of lead becoming airborne wherever possible
- the equipment with its typical load on the maximum grade it travels
- surface-operated equipment at underground mines when an MSHA inspector has reasonable cause to

believe that the service brake system does no

- the mine or nearest mine office from the date the defects are recorded until the defects are corrected

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Confined Space Rescue Program establishes procedures for rescuing entrants from permit-required confined spaces on Guy's Construction projects. Rescue capability must be in place BEFORE any entry is authorized.

29 CFR 1926.1203(g)(2)

**60% of confined space fatalities are would-be rescuers who entered without training, equipment, or atmospheric testing. Never enter a confined space to rescue without proper authorization and equipment.**

## 2.0 RESCUE OPTIONS: NON-ENTRY VS ENTRY

Two types of rescue capability:

Type	Method	When Required
Non-entry	Retrieval system (tripod, winch, body harness) extracts entrant without anyone entering the space	Default method. Required unless the retrieval equipment would increase risk or not contribute to rescue. 29 CFR 1926.1204(e)
Entry	Rescue team physically enters the space to retrieve the entrant	When non-entry rescue is infeasible (complex geometry, horizontal entry, obstructions). Requires trained entry rescue team.

- evacuation procedures, reporting procedures, alarm systems, evacuation routes, procedures for critical operations, rescue/medical duties, contact info for further information

29 CFR 1910.38(c)

- procedures for emergency evacuation, including type of evacuation and exit route assignments

29 CFR 1910.38(c)(2)

- evacuation procedures by type of emergency, escape routes, head count procedure, rescue/medical contacts, alarm system description, employee training

29 CFR 1910.38(c), 1926.35

- 102 dBA for 1.5 hours
- promptly but not later than 24 hours after discovery

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### 3.0 NON-ENTRY RESCUE (RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS)

- Retrieval line attached to the entrant's body harness (chest or full-body)
- Retrieval line runs through a mechanical device (tripod/davit with winch) positioned over the entry point
- Attendant operates the retrieval device from outside the space
- For vertical entry >5 feet deep: mechanical retrieval device required (manual pull insufficient)
- Test the retrieval system before each entry

*29 CFR 1926.1204(e)*

### 4.0 ENTRY RESCUE TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 2 rescuers (plus attendant maintaining communication)
- All rescuers trained as authorized entrants (atmospheric hazards, PPE, SCBA/SAR)
- All rescuers trained in rescue techniques specific to the space configuration
- All rescuers trained in first aid and CPR
- Rescue team must be able to reach the victim within a time frame appropriate to the hazards (typically within 4-6 minutes for IDLH atmospheres)
- Practice rescue in spaces of similar configuration at least annually

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## 5.0 THIRD-PARTY RESCUE SERVICE EVALUATION

If using an off-site rescue service (fire department, industrial rescue contractor), evaluate their capability per 29 CFR 1926.1211(a):

- Can they respond within the necessary time frame? (Get a commitment in writing.)
- Do they have the equipment for the specific space? (Vertical entry, horizontal, hazardous atmosphere)
- Are they trained for the specific hazards? (Atmospheric, engulfment, mechanical)
- Have they practiced in spaces of similar configuration?
- Are they available during all hours when entry will occur?

**Many fire departments do not have confined space rescue capability. Do not assume. Verify in writing before relying on them.**

## 6.0 RESCUE EQUIPMENT

Equipment	Purpose	Inspection
Tripod/davit arm + winch	Non-entry retrieval from vertical spaces	Before each use, annual load test
Full-body harness with retrieval D-ring	Attach retrieval line to entrant	Before each use per manufacturer
SCBA or SAR	Respiratory protection for entry rescuers in IDLH	Before each use, hydrostatic per schedule
Atmospheric monitor (4-gas)	Verify atmosphere before/during rescue entry	Daily bump test, monthly calibration
Communication system	Contact between entrant, attendant, rescue team	Before each entry
First aid kit + AED	Immediate medical response	Monthly inspection
Stokes basket/rescue litter	Patient packaging for vertical extraction	Before each use

## 7.0 PRACTICE DRILLS

- Entry rescue teams: practice rescue from representative confined spaces at least every 12 months
- Non-entry retrieval: demonstrate retrieval system operation before each new space configuration
- Drills documented: date, participants, space description, time to extract, lessons learned
- Debrief after each drill: what worked, what needs improvement

## 8.0 MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Rescue team members: current first aid and CPR certification
- AED available on site when confined space entry is in progress
- Medical evaluation for SCBA use per 29 CFR 1910.134 respiratory protection standard
- Post-rescue: transport victim to medical facility. Provide atmospheric monitoring data to medical personnel.

## 9.0 COMMUNICATION DURING RESCUE

- Continuous communication between attendant and entrant(s) at all times
- Attendant initiates rescue when: entrant requests it, attendant observes distress, attendant cannot communicate with entrant, or atmospheric alarm activates
- Attendant calls for entry rescue team and emergency services simultaneously
- Attendant does NOT enter the space to attempt rescue

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## 10.0 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- All entrants: self-rescue techniques, retrieval system use, communication protocols
- Attendants: how to summon rescue, retrieval device operation, when to call 911
- Entry rescue team: confined space entry, atmospheric monitoring, SCBA, patient packaging, vertical/horizontal extraction
- First aid/CPR for all rescue team members
- Refresher: when procedures change, after an incident, or when performance deficiencies are observed.  
Annual minimum for rescue teams.

## 11.0 RECORDKEEPING

Record	Retention	Notes
Rescue service evaluation	Annual	Per 1926.1211(a)
Rescue drill records	3 years	Per drill
Rescue equipment inspection logs	Duration of use + 1 year	Per inspection
Training records	Duration of employment	All personnel
SCBA medical evaluations	Duration of employment	Per 1910.134
Incident/rescue reports	5 years	Per event

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## California STATE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- rescue equipment and trained personnel
- procedures for rescuing entrants, providing emergency services to rescued employees, summoning additional rescue and emergency services, and preventing unauthorized personnel from attempting a rescue
- atmospheric testing, ventilation, and rescue procedures
- carbon monoxide poisoning or asphyxiation
- 102 dBA for 1.5 hours
- promptly but not later than 24 hours after discovery
- shall have a minimum width of three feet
- construction, modification, and major repair of tunnels, shafts, caissons, chambers, passageways, cofferdams, any other aspect of tunnel construction, and the use and maintenance of equipment
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- the Administrator
- a pipeline system
- surface hole location footages from the quarter section with latitude and longitude
- all documents that are applicable to the appeal
- types of evacuation to be used in emergency circumstances
- 29 CFR 1926.1204 through 1926.1211

### 29 CFR 1926.1203(g)(2)

- permit-space entry requirements in §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211 when remaining hazards do not endanger life or interfere with escape
- in compliance with §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211

### 29 CFR 1926.1203(e)(1)(iv)

- permit-space entry requirements contained in §§ 1926.1204 through 1926.1211 if hazards remaining in the enclosed space do not endanger the life of an entrant or interfere with an entrant's escape

### 29 CFR 1926.953(a)

- if the employer's permit space program allows attendant entry for rescue and the attendant has been trained and equipped for rescue operations as required by § 1926.1211(a)

### 29 CFR 1926.1209(d)

- where showers are not provided, that employees wash their hands and face at the end of the work-shift
- by vacuuming or other methods that minimize the likelihood of lead becoming airborne wherever possible
- the equipment with its typical load on the maximum grade it travels
- surface-operated equipment at underground mines when an MSHA inspector has reasonable cause to believe that the service brake system does not function as required
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## APPENDIX A: RESCUE SERVICE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

**Service Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Evaluated:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evaluated By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Criterion	Notes	Y/N	Verify
Can respond within required time frame	Response time: ___ min		
Has confined space rescue equipment	List: ___		
Has SCBA/SAR for IDLH atmospheres			
Trained for our specific space configurations			
Has practiced in similar spaces within past 12 months	Date: ___		
Available during our work hours	Hours: ___		
Written agreement/commitment obtained			
Notified of our specific hazards			

Evaluation Result:  Adequate  Not adequate (reason: \_\_\_\_\_)

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## APPENDIX B: RESCUE DRILL RECORD

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location/Space: \_\_\_\_\_  
Drill Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Rescue Type:  Non-entry  Entry

Participants:


Space description: \_\_\_\_\_

Scenario: \_\_\_\_\_

Time to reach victim: \_\_\_\_\_ min | Time to extract: \_\_\_\_\_ min | Total: \_\_\_\_\_ min

Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Issues identified: \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective actions: \_\_\_\_\_

Drill Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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