



Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Administrative Policy	
Subject:	Confined Space Rescue
Reference Number:	OPER 03-020
Effective Date:	5-Feb-22
Last Revision Date:	
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

Background:

The Wintergreen Fire - Rescue Department has the responsibility of providing for the rescue needs of the Wintergreen community and, through mutual aid agreements, assistance with the rescue needs for the surrounding areas.

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the response of Wintergreen Fire - Rescue Department personnel and equipment to incidents which involve confined spaces.

Definitions:

Attendant: Personnel assigned to support the entrant(s) at the point of access.

Confined Space: A space that is large enough for bodily entry; has limited or restricted means for entry or exit; is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

Entrant: Personnel assigned to entry into a confined space who meet the minimum training of Confined Space Rescue Operations or equivalent.

Entry Permit: A specified document available to operating personnel which authorizes the entry into a confined space with identified hazards.

Non-Permit Required Incident: A confined space with no recognized hazards or hazards which can be isolated.

Permit Required Incident: An atmosphere or space which has been identified to pose risk of engulfment, entrapment, or atmospheric hazards which cannot be readily isolated or ventilated.

Supervisor: A qualified person who shall oversee the operational aspects of entry. The supervisor is responsible for the accurate completion of the entry permit.

Procedure:

1. Scene Preparation
 - a. Upon arrival at a confined space incident, the officer of the first arriving apparatus shall establish command and attempt to obtain the following

information:

- i. How many occupants are in the space
 - ii. Duration of time inside space
 - iii. Last contact with occupants
 - iv. What type of IDLH environment exists
 - v. If applicable, who oversees the worksite
 - vi. Where is the entry permit for occupants in the space?
- b. Once the extent of the rescue is determined the Incident Commander should have the OIC initiate a career call-back for additional staffing.
 - c. If the entry will require the entrant to operate out of sight from the attendant, request the response of a neighboring jurisdiction with technician level capabilities.
 - d. Command shall evaluate the need for a Hazardous Materials Response.
 - e. Personnel shall not enter a confined space to render patient care until the space has been monitored and proper ventilation has been established.
 - f. Conduct proper lock-out/tag-out procedures
 - g. Assign responsibility for a Confined Space Entry Permit (Appendix A)
2. Equipment
- a. Provide for a Staging Area
 - b. Initiate an Accountability System
 - c. Ensure that the proper equipment is on scene including but not limited to:
 - i. Atmospheric Monitoring Equipment
 - ii. Intrinsically safe lighting
 - iii. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
 - iv. Victim removal systems and equipment
 - d. Notify and request utility companies as appropriate
 - e. Ensure an ambulance is available on location prior to entry
3. Tactical Considerations
- a. Entry Preparation
 - i. Review recognized hazards and mitigation implementations
 - ii. Ensure MAYDAY instructions are clear and understood
 - iii. Utilities including electrical, gas, and water shall be secured using lock-out/tag-out procedures
 - b. Selection of Entrants
 - i. Properly trained personnel (Technician level for IDLH environments)
 - ii. All entrants shall wear the proper level of PPE to include a Class III harness, helmet and air source.
 - iii. Entrants equipped with SCBA shall have a tag line connected to their dorsal connection point
 - iv. Entrants shall be equipped with air monitoring devices
 - v. When operating on a vertical entry requiring a 4' or greater depth, attendants shall don a Class III harness attached to a travel restrict system
 - c. Atmospheric Monitoring
 - i. Atmospheric monitoring shall occur prior to and during all

- entries to a confined space
 - ii. All atmospheres shall be monitored for:
 - 1. Oxygen deficiency or excess
 - 2. Flammability
 - 3. Toxicity
 - iii. The following levels shall be considered Immediately
 - iv. Dangerous to Life and Health:
 - 1. Oxygen <19.5% or >23.5%
 - 2. Toxicity which exceeds the Permissible Exposure Limit
 - v. pursuant to the applicable Material Safety Data Sheet
 - 1. Flammability at 10% of the Lower Explosive Limit
 - d. All atmospheric readings shall be documented on the Entry Permit.
4. Entry
- a. Once the appropriate method and location for entry has been determined, teams will begin entry for reconnaissance/rescue/recovery operations
 - b. Team member entry times and beginning SCBA psi levels shall be logged on the tactical worksheet
 - c. Once the victim has been located, decide:
 - i. Is this a rescue or recovery?
 - ii. If a rescue, apply a RIT pack to the patient.
 - iii. What resources are needed to effect the rescue/recovery?
 - iv. Communicate the decision
 - d. A quick, but thorough primary assessment of the victim shall be completed. If possible, address any immediate life threats
 - e. Once prepared for victim removal, package the patient for removal using a SKED, backboard, or KED
5. Victim Removal
- a. During removal, the victim shall not be placed between the rescuer and point of egress
 - b. Use a mechanical advantage system applicable to the size and weight of the victim
 - c. Immediately upon exit from the confined space, transfer the victim to emergency medical personnel; consider decontamination as necessary
 - d. Once the victim(s) is clear, remove all entrants and equipment.
6. Termination
- a. Account for all personnel and complete post-entry medical evaluation
 - b. Inventory and replace all equipment