	Responsible University Official: Senior Associate Vice President for Safety and Security **Responsible Office:** Division of Safety and Security **Last Revised Date:** March 15, 2017

PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE

Policy Statement

It is the policy of The George Washington University to protect all employees from toxic, explosive, or asphyxiating atmospheres, and from engulfment or entrapment while working in and around confined spaces. The Confined Space Entry Program details the procedures and training that GW will utilize in complying with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permit-Required Confined Space Standard (29 CFR 1910.146).

Reason for Policy

The purpose of this policy is to protect employees from harmful gases and materials when working in and around confined spaces, and to comply with OSHA regulations.

Who is Governed by this Policy

Staff and contractors

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Policy

The university has developed a Confined Space Entry Program to protect employees who may be required to enter confined spaces such as manholes, boilers, crawl spaces and sewer pits during the course of their work.

These workspaces are considered "confined" because they are large enough to be entered to perform work, have limited means for entry/exit, and are not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Confined spaces that pose additional hazards including atmospheric, engulfment, and entrapment hazards are referred to as "permit-required confined spaces."

The Confined Space Entry Program has identified the locations of permit required and non-permit spaces on campus. A confined space entry permit is available at the Office of Health and Safety and must be filled out prior to any GW employee entering a permit-required confined space.

Permit-Required Confined Spaces

The Office of Health and Safety will identify permit-required confined spaces according to the presence of explosive gases, oxygen deficiency or enrichment, carbon monoxide or hydrogen sulfide concentrations, electric shock equipment, heat stresses, noise hazards, working and walking spaces, or any other hazards.

Employee Training

The Office of Health and Safety will provide training to all employees whose work is regulated by this policy. The training will establish employee proficiency in the duties required by OSHA and will introduce the entry requirements for each confined space on campus. Verification of training will be filed with the Office of Health and Safety.

Contractor Responsibilities

University contractors must be informed of confined spaces in their work area. Any confined space entry must be conducted in compliance with the contractor's permit

program. This policy enforces the procedures set forth by the Confined Space Entry Program.

Definitions

Confined Space: A space large enough to enter and work in, with a limited entry and exit area, which is not designed to be occupied for extended periods. Examples include tanks, silos, furnaces, tunnels, sewers, manholes, and pipelines.

Related Information

Confined Space Entry

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.146 Permit-Required Confined Spaces

Contacts

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Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** July 6, 2018

- **Last Revised Date:** March 15, 2017

- **Policy Origination Date:** April 1994

Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

*This policy, as well as all **university policies**, are located on the **Office of Compliance's** home page.*