

VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

TITLE: Confined Space

POLICY NUMBER: OP034

The campus of The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) has been surveyed for the presence of confined spaces. The school does have both Permit Required Confined Spaces and Non-permit Required Spaces. No VSDB employee shall enter or perform work within Permit Required Confined Spaces. All entry or work within Permit Required spaces shall be performed by contractors working under contract with the VSDB.

The Facilities and Engineering Department shall maintain a listing of all confined spaces and any guidelines for entry into or work in or around those spaces. The department shall also post all known confined spaces with appropriate signage, indicating Non-permit Required or Permit Required in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.146.

Where there are changes in the use or configuration of a non-permit confined space that might increase the hazard to entrants, the Facilities and Engineering Department and the Safety Officer shall reevaluate that space, and if necessary, reclassify it as a permit required confined space.

Permit Required Confined Space Procedures:

All sewer lines, storm sewers, underground storm detention systems, underground storm filter systems and their associated manholes are classified as Permit Required Confined Spaces. Manhole covers will not be labeled.

1. The Facilities and Engineering Department will inform all contractors having access near Permit Required Confined Spaces that the facility does contain Permit Required Confined Spaces, and that permit space entry is only allowed through compliance with a permit space program meeting the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.146 or 29 CFR 1926 for Construction.
2. The Facilities and Engineering Department will apprise the contractor of the elements, including the hazards identified and the School's experience with the space, that make the space in question a permit space.
3. The Facilities and Engineering Department will apprise the contractor of any precautions or procedures that the School has implemented for the protection of employees in or near the permit space where contractor personnel will be working.
4. The Facilities and Engineering Department will coordinate entry operations with the contractor whenever School personnel are working in the vicinity of the permit space to ensure the safety of the entry personnel.
5. The contractor shall submit a safety plan for the entry operations for approval by the VSDB prior to beginning any work within a Permit Required Confined Space. At a minimum, atmospheric monitoring shall include testing for flammable gas, Oxygen content, Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), and Carbon Monoxide gas (CO).

6. The Facilities and Engineering Department and/or the Safety Officer shall debrief the contractor at the conclusion of the entry operations regarding the permit space program followed and regarding any hazards confronted or created in permit spaces during entry operations.

Rescission: Revised: July 1, 2010; September 2015
BOV Approved: September 21, 2016