

POLICY

Effective Date: October 1, 1992

Authority: WAC 296-62-145, 296-45-650

Approved By: Provost and Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs

& 296-32-340

Cancels:

See Also: POL U5950.01 Health, Safety and Environmental Protection

POL-U5950.02 CONFINED SPACE

This policy applies to all university employees or students who may be exposed to a hazard arising from entry into a confined space.

1. Training, Protective and Rescue Equipment and Procedures Safeguard Workers or Students Exposed to Confined Space Hazards

It is the policy of Western Washington University that whenever employees or students are exposed to a hazard arising from entry into a confined space, appropriate training, protective and rescue equipment, and procedures are used to safeguard the exposed workers or students from serious injury or death.

2. Washington Administrative Code Parts 296-62-145, 296-45-65027 and 296-32-340 Provide Applicable Requirements

Confined space entry requirements are defined in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Part 296-62-145. Confined space for electrical workers is governed by WAC 296-45-65037 and telecommunications work is governed by WAC 296-32-340.

3. Trained Individuals Evaluate the Hazards of Assignments

For each project or job, individuals who are competent in the evaluation of hazards, precautions, first aid, and artificial respiration shall specifically be assigned. All personnel shall be trained in the use of personal protective equipment required for the job assignment.

4. Department Head or Directors Ensure the Confined Space Program Is Employed

It is the responsibility of the department head or center director to ensure that this confined space program is employed for areas under their purview. The department head shall also be responsible for procedures, training, and planning for entry into confined spaces which present a problem due to toxicity, flammability, oxygen deficiency or excess mechanical, electrical, corrosive, or temperature hazard.

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5. **Supervisors Implement the Confined Space Program for Work Under Their Purview**

Supervisors shall be responsible to the department head for implementing the confined space program for employees and work under their purview. The supervisor or his or her designate shall assure that the confined space work permit (attached) is completed prior to entry into a confined space, that appropriate air quality monitoring has been arranged in advance, and that appropriate equipment and trained personnel are available to safely enter the confined space.

6. **Employees Comply with Confined Space Procedures**

All employees shall comply with the confined space procedures and shall be protected from hazards resulting from entry into confined spaces.

7. **Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Staff Provide Procedures and Assist Departments with Implementation**

The Environmental Health and Safety staff shall be responsible for providing and updating University-wide procedures and assisting departments with implementation of the program.