

MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

FIRE/EMT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFINED SPACE RESCUE POLICY/GUIDELINES

SECOND DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The MMRMA Fire/EMT Advisory committee exists to address areas of concern within the Fire/EMT service. These areas may expose member agencies to possible loss of life, serious injury, property damage, or unnecessary liability. The purpose of this model policy is to provide a practical resource and guide for the composition and promulgation of similar documents within the Membership. The committee is mindful that each agency will need to modify the document to suit local needs and resources.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to establish procedures to protect employees of _____ Fire Department from the hazards of confined space rescue.

SCOPE

This directive applies to all members of the _____ Fire Department.

POLICY

_____ Fire Department will provide confined space rescue to any organization or agency operating within the boundary limits of _____ provided that the following conditions are met:

- A. Any such organization shall have a written confined space entry plan in place that meets the provisions of and requirements of *MIOSHA General Industry Part 90 Standard*. A copy of said plan must have been submitted to the _____ Fire Department.
- B. Said organization/agency shall meet with _____ Fire Department representatives and discuss needs, operations, and training.
- C. Said organization shall submit to _____ Fire Department a list of all confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces.

D. To activate an agreement for the _____ Fire Department to provide confined space rescue, the following shall be completed:

1. The organization/agency shall meet with the _____ Fire Department whenever a permit-required confined space entry is in progress, in a manner prescribed by said fire department.
2. The organization/agency shall, at least annually, conduct joint rescue training with their confined space personnel and the _____ Fire Department personnel. This shall be hands-on operational training.
OPTIONAL
3. The organization/agency shall meet annually with representatives of the _____ Fire Department to discuss the provision of confined space rescue by the _____ Fire Department and methods of possible improvement. ***OPTIONAL***

EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES

I. DEFINITIONS - As defined in policy section.

II. POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Entry personnel must always assume that one or more of the following hazards exists in confined space:

- . Oxygen deficiency
- . Flammable gasses and vapors
- . Toxic agents
- . Physical hazards to include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Excessive temperatures (heat or cold)
 - b. High noise levels
 - c. Falling objects and debris
 - d. Electric shock
 - e. Burn potential
 - f. Physical fatigue

III. PERSONNEL SAFETY:

Safety of confined space rescue personnel shall be the first priority during any confined space rescue operation. If safety of entry personnel is compromised at any time during an entry operation, said entry shall be canceled. All entry personnel shall be withdrawn and removed to safety until such time as the hazardous condition is rectified.

Confined space rescue operations require four (4) personnel and five (5) personnel in

instances where a vertical lift is required. The duties and minimum levels of protective equipment are as follows:

- A. Entry Person - Performs duties in confined space wearing full protective equipment, equipped with SCBA, Class II or Class III safety harness, and attached lifeline.
- B. Stand-By Person - Stands by the entrance to the confined space to maintain constant communication with the entry person and to assist with any needed equipment. The standby person shall also be prepared to perform rescue of the entry person should the need arise. The standby person shall be equipped as outlined in Section IV, Subsection A (above).
- C. Monitoring Personnel (2 persons) - These personnel shall monitor the length of time and the air supply to the entry person(s). They shall change air supply cylinders as necessary. The level of protective equipment shall be dictated by the level of hazard at the entry to the confined space and as approved by the incident commander.
- D. Assisting Person (If Necessary) - The need for a fifth person to stand by the entrance to the confined space rescue effort with vertical lift protective equipment shall be dictated by level of hazard at the entry to the confined space and as approved by the incident commander.
- E. Incident Commander Responsibilities:
 - 1. Briefing of all personnel on operation procedures, assigned duties, and the operation in general, prior to entry.
 - 2. Insure that the atmosphere within the space is checked for combustibility.
 - 3. Insure that proper ventilation equipment is set up and utilized should the atmosphere within the space be found to be combustible. This shall be accomplished prior to any entry into said space.
 - 4. Insure that all motorized equipment is at least fifty (50) feet from the entrance to said space.
 - 5. Insure that all entry and stand-by personnel are in required protective equipment.
 - 6. Insure that all entry and stand-by personnel are utilizing required SCBA.

7. Insure that all entry and stand-by personnel are equipped with Class II or Class III safety harness with attached lifeline.
8. Insure that all moving parts within the confined space are isolated.
9. Insure that only persons trained and certified in confined space rescue operations are involved in confined space rescue operations.

IV. ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- A. The air supply to the personnel involved in the entry as well as stand-by personnel must be maintained without fail.
- B. Communications with entry personnel shall be maintained either by voice, sight, eye-contact, hand signals, and/or rope signal. This shall be the responsibility of the stand-by personnel.
- C. If said communications indicate that the entry personnel is experiencing difficulty, the entry person shall be ordered from the confined space and no re-entry shall be made until such time as the cause of difficulty is determined and corrected.
- D. Lifelines shall be kept reasonably taut.
- E. Lighting within a confined space shall be explosion proof. No other lighting is authorized.

V. APPLICATION

This order constitutes departmental policy and is not intended to enlarge the employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty is imposed by law. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

VI. This directive is effective as of _____.

VII. REVIEW DATE

One year from above effective date. It shall be the responsibility of _____ to review and revise this directive if necessary.

APPENDICES:

1. OSHA confined space requirements
2. MIOSHA confined space guidelines
3. MIOSHA rescue service requirements
4. MIOSHA general compliance checklist
5. MIOSHA alternate entry procedures
6. Sample entry permit
7. MIOSHA rescue service decision logic