

Operations Division Occupational Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

Page 1 of 5

OHS Case ID: 02889QFPT010

Field Visit no: 02889QGMS026

Visit Date: 2021-MAR-31

Field Visit Type: CONTINUATION

Workplace Identification: CITY OF HAMILTON - WATER & WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
700 WOODWARD AVENUE, HAMILTON, ON, CANADA L8H 6P4

Notice ID:

Telephone:
(905) 546-2424

JHSC Status:
Active

Work Force #:
50

Completed %:

Persons Contacted: CARY MACDONALD - HEALTH & SAFETY SPECIALIST

Visit Purpose: CONTINUATION OF REVIEW

Visit Location: VIA EMAIL

Visit Summary: NO ORDERS ISSUED

Detailed Narrative:

On March 12, 2021, a review was conducted for the underground valve chamber which is reportedly a round space approximately 10' deep and 30' in diameter and is situated on top of the CSO holding tank. This space is located at a baseball field to the north of the park and had an opening at grade level. The cover was locked and secured. Beyond the locked cover was a fixed access ladder leading below grade. The contacts on that day, the space was a room that was equipped with lighting and was temperature controlled. A defined confined space requires two elements to determine that the regulations apply as below;

"confined space" means a fully or partially enclosed space,

(a) that is not both designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy, and

(b) in which atmospheric hazards may occur because of its construction, location or contents or because of work that is done in it;

At face value, the space may not meet the confined space criteria found in the regulation. The employer may still have a restricted space which is defined in the Regulations for Health Care facilities which have also prescribed items that meet a reasonable precaution;

"restricted space" means a tank, vat, vessel, duct, vault, boiler or other space from which the egress of a worker is restricted, limited or impeded because of the construction, design, location or other physical characteristics of the space.

42 (2) A worker shall enter a restricted space only if,

(a) he or she is informed of and familiar with the characteristics of the restricted space which restrict, limit or impede egress and is instructed in the procedures for entering, working in and exiting from the restricted space;

(b) there are procedures and measures in place for the removal of the worker from the restricted space in the event of an emergency;

(c) at least one other worker is stationed outside the restricted space and in proximity to it and is readily available and capable of implementing emergency procedures and measures for the removal of the worker

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>CARY MACDONALD</u>	PETER COUTLEE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER 119 King St W, 14th Fl., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7 MOLIHSHAMILTONEAST@ontario.ca Tel: 905-912-1244 Fax: 905-577-1324	Name <u>D. Berrisford</u>
Title <u>H&S COORDINATOR</u>		Title <u>Operator</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Signature <u>Peter Coutlee</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

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from the restricted space; and

(d) mechanical equipment in the restricted space is disconnected from its power source and is locked out.

(3) The requirements of subsection (2) apply with all necessary modifications while a worker is in a restricted space.

The employer's expectation to access this space is to follow their confine space entry procedures and permits. The elements found in the confine space program can be easily transferred to interpret it to any restricted space requirements.

After review of the program, assessment document and the permit, no orders are issued.

The employer is to take note of the following;

RRO Section 5(3)(e)

(e) an entry permit system that sets out the measures and procedures to be followed when work is to be performed in a confined space to which the program applies

10. (1) The employer shall ensure that a separate entry permit is issued each time work is to be performed in a confined space, before any worker enters the confined space.

(2) An entry permit shall be adequate and shall include at least the following;

3. A description of the hazards and the corresponding control measures.

Confine space program requires that the space be assessed to determine the hazards that maybe present in a particular area or apportunity to, that may affect a workers health & safety. based on the assessment, a plan would be developed to control those risks. A permit would then be issued to execute the work in a safe manner covering the prescribed elements. The current assessment document, PW-WW-PO-F-019-002 outlines several hazards that maybe present and the competent persons ability to make comments to the right.

When implementing a control, the employer is advised that a hierarchy be in place to control the risks as follows;

1. ELIMINATION/SUBSTITUTION 2. ENGINEERD 3. ADMINISTRATIVE 4. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Although the plan and assessment document identifies many associated hazards/controls with regards to a confined space, this is not readily available information on the permit. The employer will be required to

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update the permit and take the identified hazards particular to the entry from the assessment document and place them in the body of the permit with the corresponding controls as required by section 10(2) 2. Many of the "Safety equipment/ measures" check boxes and "space preparation methods" found on the permit will be corresponding controls to the hazards identified in the assessment.

10(2) 7. A list of the equipment required for entry and rescue, and verification that the equipment is in good working order.

The current first page of the permit has created three categories at the bottom in the "rescue system" boxes. To the right, there is a "comments" section that can be filled out. This section would be available to "list" what particular rescue equipment would be used for this permit. Items that are listed in the "Safety equipment" like SCBA, safety harness, lifelines & tripod and winch maybe items used, but do not have an ability to verify the equipment is in good working order in the safety equipment section. A "list of equipment" is advised for the rescue section rather than "comments". The corresponding identifiable markings (eg. serial#'s, asset#'s) similar to the employer's recording of gas monitors record is recommended. The access/egress type for entry is identified at the top of the permit. This lined space should be evaluated to determine that entry would match the rescue or be different.

Hygiene Comments - Ursula Drewniak, MLTSD Occupational Hygiene Specialist (e-mail: ursula.drewniak@ontario.ca)

PERMIT

The confined space permit must include at least the following:

- the location of the confined space.
- a description of the work to be performed there.
- a description of the hazards and the corresponding control measures.
- the time period for which the entry permit applies.
- the name of the attendant
- a record of each worker's entries and exits.
- a list of the equipment required for entry and rescue, and verification that the equipment is in good working order.
- results obtained in atmospheric testing.
- if the work to be performed in the confined space includes hot work, adequate provisions for the hot work

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and corresponding control measures.

Before each shift, a competent person must verify that the entry permit complies with the relevant plan.

The employer is advised to ensure that all sections of the permit are completed as per the applicable hazard assessment and plan. Hazard(s) applicable to a specific confined space the permit is pertaining to, must be listed on the permit.

CONFINED SPACE PROCEDURES

The employer is reminded of the following:

Section 3 Definitions

- The atmospheric hazards in the case of a workplace that is a project, are defined as the exposure to atmospheric contaminants does not exceed any applicable limit set out in O. Reg. 833 Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents.
- The definition of removable atmospheric hazards states " A situation where an atmospheric hazard can be returned to acceptable atmospheric levels through ventilation, purging, the use of an inert gas or other means". Please be aware that introduction of the inert gas into a confined space usually creates a hazard of oxygen deficiency, which is defined as hazardous atmosphere.

Section 5 The Confined Space Entry Plan

- The confined space entry plan is a continuation of the hazard assessment and must include procedures for the control for of hazards identified in the assessment. The O. Reg 632/15 requires that the plan includes also the following elements (section 7 of the regulation):

Duties of workers

On-site rescue procedures:

Rescue equipment and methods of communication

Personal protective equipment (PPE), clothing and devices.

Isolation of energy and control of materials movement.

Attendants.

Adequate means for entering and exiting.

Atmospheric testing.

Adequate procedures for working in the presence of explosive or flammable substances. Ventilation and

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purging.

The sample plan does not include the adequate means of for entering and exiting. With regards to ventilation, the employer is reminded that if mechanical ventilation is required to maintain acceptable atmospheric levels, an adequate warning system and exit procedure shall also be provided to ensure that workers have adequate warning of ventilation failure and are able to exit the confined space safely (section 20(3) of the O. Reg. 632/15). If dilution ventilation (a pushed technic with a fan) is used, the employer must ensure that the ventilator pushes a clean, fresh air and no other source of contamination into the confined space.

Rescue procedures the O. Reg 632/05 requires that the rescue procedures are adequate to protect health and safety of the worker. It is expected that the rescue procedures provide a sequence of tasks to be undertaken if an incident occurs. These tasks should provide sufficient detail to ensure that the rescue achieves its goals. The roles required to carry out the proposed rescue plan should be listed. The names of workers performing each role and the method for contacting the emergency response team should be included, preferably on the permit. The permit for confined space entry shall identify / list rescue equipment needed for rescue procedures. The employer is reminded that the rescue equipment must be readily available, appropriate for entry into the confined space; and inspected as often as is necessary to ensure it is in good working order, by a person with adequate knowledge, training and experience who is appointed by the employer.

- Also, the employer must ensure that the plan is reviewed as often as is necessary to ensure that it remains adequate.

Section 5 Training

The employer is reminded that workers' training under section 8 of the O. Reg. 632/15, for safe work practices for working in confined spaces and for performing related work, including training in the recognition of hazards associated with confined spaces (general confined space training) must be reviewed, in consultation with the JHSC (or the H & S representative) whenever there is a change in circumstances that may affect the safety of a worker who enters a confined space, and in any case at least once a year.

The plan-specific training (section 9 of the O. Reg. 632/15) should be reviewed with workers before starting work on the confined space.

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