

## Confined Spaces

Maintenance personnel is most often called to work in special areas called Confined Spaces like pits, tanks, air ducts etc. These spaces are normally not intended for human presence, therefore presenting special hazards like oxygen deficiency, electricity, machine parts, high temperatures, chemicals that could cause electrocution, thermal shock, loss of consciousness, chemical burns or even death.

In spite of the high risk involved, maintenance workers exercise malpractices as they either consider the jobs performed as low risk or of short duration.

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Large volume sewage pit in which maintenance includes mainly cleaning and piping replacement; hazards that are present include biological agents, thermal discomfort, injury, electrocution and oxygen deficiency.

Sewage pits in a factory surrounding area: there is no demarcation present, while the pit is easily accessible (not padlocked)





A demarcated Confined Space (tank) in the local language (Greek) as well as in English.



A multiple hazard Confined Space and namely a Biological Purification System pumphouse pit; multiple hazards are also here present like mechanical rotating parts, heights, entrapment structures, biological agents etc.



Sometimes risk taking touches the absurd.