



Alaska Fire Service Confined Space Plan



Updated – January 21, 2015

Definitions:

Confined Space: A space that:

- Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work;
- Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (e.g., tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits); and
- Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Entry Supervisor

- The employee responsible for coordinating the entry into the confined space.

Responsible Person

- The person directly responsible for the work being performed in the confined space. This can be the Team Leader, Foreman, journeyman, or other person qualified by training and experience. Responsible parties for Alaska Fire Service Confined Spaces are: Pete Pineault, Randy Kamp, David Lee Edwards, Kent Davis and Rusty Morton.

Non-Permit Confined Space

- A confined space that does not contain or, with respect to atmospheric hazards, have the potential to contain any hazard capable of causing death or serious physical harm. All the confined spaces that are maintained at Alaska Fire Service by their maintenance personnel are Non-Permit. All utility confined spaces, which are permit-required, are serviced by Doyon Utilities.

Type and hazards of Alaska Fire Services Confined Spaces

- All the confined spaces are utility entrance pits that contain steam, water and sewage pipes. Hazards: burns from broken steam pipes, gas exposure from sewage pipes, Hydrogen sulfide, and low levels of oxygen. The only people to go into these pits are Facility Operations personnel and Doyon personnel. These pits are visited a maximum of 3 times a year.

Mitigations for the Utility Entrance Pits

Facility Operations personnel use a current calibrated gas analyzer to monitor the air inside the confined space. The gas analyzer's recording sensor is lowered into the pit to check for proper oxygen levels & presence of hydrogen sulfide prior to entry. If the readings are of normal atmosphere, one person goes into the pit and the other person stays up and monitors. If the alarm from the gas analyzer goes off, the person in the confined space gets out immediately. Either powered air is blown into the pit to bring levels into normal range when tested again for hydrogen sulfide and the oxygen levels, or no entry is permitted and the work is contracted out to a qualified confined space entry contractor.

Locations of Alaska Fire Service Confined Space Sites

- #1500 Maintenance Shop in the Mechanical Room,
- #1541 AFS Administration in the Mechanical Room,
- #1539 Fitness Center in the Mechanical Room,
- #1513 Fire Operations in the Mechanical Room,
- #1544 Warehouse in the Mechanical Room,
- #1537 Transportation,
- #1538 Communications,
- #1533 Heated Storage,
- #1540 Pilot Lounge in the northeast corner of the building,
- #1535 Small Engines confined space is located upon west entrance of the roll up door.
- The seasonal washrooms are located east of #1540, Pilot Lounge, the water access valves are outside the washroom to the southwest.
- The AFS Helibase has a water access valve located in a utilidor at the helibase.

The Galena Zone no longer uses the utilidor system and, other than the unused sewage lift station that no employees enter, it has no other confined spaces. The Upper Yukon Zone has no confined spaces that are entered, only a septic tank that is serviced from above ground. The McGrath station has a certificate-confined space for water and sewer lines just north of the mess hall, and another water system manhole between old dispatch building and the FMO house. No AFS employees enter those spaces. See the Alaska Fire Service Facility map for the locations of each building.

BUILDINGS	LOCATION OF UTILITY PITS PERMIT : * NON-PERMIT *	HAZARDS AND COMMENTS
#1500 Maintenance Shop	Mechanical Room	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, O2 deficiency, H2S
#1541 AFS Administration	Old section of 1541 S W corner	Sewage Lift Station NO ENTRY by AFS
#1544 Warehouse	Mechanical Room	Burns: steam pipes, Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1537 Transportation	North East corner of building	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1538 Communications	North East corner of building	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1539 Fitness Center	Mechanical Room	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1540 Pilots Lounge	North East corner of building	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1535 Small Engines	West entrance Roll up door	Burns: steam pipes Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
#1513 Fire Operations	Mechanical Room	Burns: steam pipes, Exposure: sewage pipes, H2S, O2 deficiency
Seasonal Washrooms	Water access values outside N W corner	NO ENTRY by AFS
AFS Helibase	Water access values SE corner of Helibase	NO ENTRY by AFS



