



Toxic Contaminants

Toxic substances are another danger in confined space entry and work. Many times, toxic substances can't be seen or smelled—but they can still be there. Two ways that toxic materials can hurt you are:

➔ ***Irritation***

The substance may irritate your respiratory system (throat, lungs) or your nervous system. If this irritation is extreme, it can be deadly.

➔ ***Chemical Asphyxiation***

Some toxics can decrease the amount of oxygen you get in your lungs, keeping them from working properly.

Some common toxics that are especially dangerous in confined spaces:

➔ ***Carbon monoxide*** ➔ ***Hydrogen sulfide*** ➔ ***Sulfur dioxide***

Because of these dangers, each time you enter a confined space, make sure you know:

- ➔ ***about hazardous materials that could be present.***
- ➔ ***about hazardous materials previously contained in the space.***
- ➔ ***the health effects from exposure.***
- ➔ ***what levels are acceptable for entry.***
- ➔ ***what personal protective equipment is needed.***
- ➔ ***what rescue equipment is needed.***