



Executive Summary

THE BGSU PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM

In 1970, the United States Congress established the right of workers to "safe and healthful working conditions" through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In July 1994, Federal OSHA standards became effective for Ohio public employers, including Bowling Green State University and other state agencies through the Ohio Public Employee Risk Reduction Act. On October 7th of that same year, the BGSU Board of Trustees established the following policy: " It is Bowling Green State University's policy to comply with the occupational safety and health standards of the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act and all applicable Federal, State, and Local rules, regulations, and directives".

Permit- Required Confined Space is one of the OSHA standards adopted under the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act. This standard details specific provisions for work in permit-required confined spaces in the workplace. The standard requires the development of a written Permit-Required Confined Space Program, a document describing steps to protect employees from the health and physical hazards associated with their work environment. And could have any of the following hazards: electricity, chemical exposure, slips/falls, oxygen deficient atmosphere, etc. The Permit-Required Confined Space Program outlines safe practices and procedures for entry into permit - required confined spaces by BGSU employees and contractors.

The objective of the Permit - Required Confined Space Program is to prevent exposure to work place hazards. This program applies to all University employees, including Firelands, whose duties require entry into a permit - required confined space. The program provides guidelines for hazard assessment, entry procedures, atmospheric testing, equipment guidelines, employee training, and rescue and emergency. The program also identifies responsible parties.