



The Portland Fire Department has expanded its services to the community by creating a technical rescue team. The Team bolsters the department's ability to respond to and effectively mitigate high risk incidents often associated with confined spaces, heavy industry, and large scale building projects.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a final rule amending the 1910.146 permit required confined space regulation effective Feb 1, 1999.

OSHA's goal in issuing this amendment is to provide clearer guidance for the selection of properly prepared rescue service and its ability to demonstrate that it is rescue capable.

The purpose of our program is to form a partnership between the City of Portland Fire Department and area businesses and industry to ensure the continued availability of these specialized emergency services and to bring area businesses into regulatory compliance.

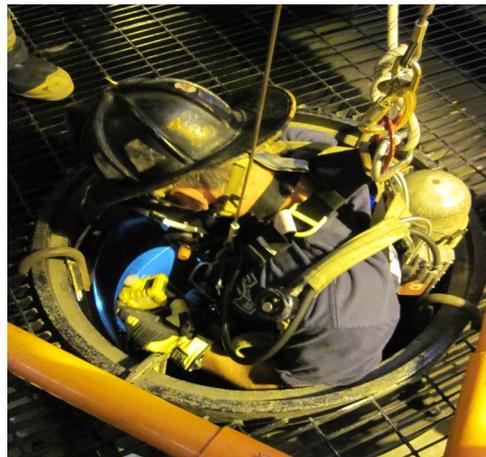
Confined Space Rescue Cooperative

Technical Rescue

The Portland Fire Department has identified a growing need for specialized rescue services for area businesses and industries. The Department was presented the opportunity to develop our technical response team as a result of a SAFER grant awarded to the city in 2012. The team is now trained, equipped and available for emergency response.

The team is currently located at Bramhall Fire Station at 780 Congress Street. Members include personnel assigned to Rescue 1, Ladder 6 and Engine 6. They are available for response 365 days a year, 24 hours a day*.

Members are trained to safely conduct technical rescue for confined space, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials and are currently working to add to our water rescue capabilities.



* Team personnel could be committed to a prior emergency incident

History

Until now the Fire Department was being listed on entry permits as the confined space rescue service for local businesses without its knowledge. The department had two choices; ask people to remove them as primary responders, or train firefighters to become confined space rescuers.

After assessing the needs of businesses in Portland, and reviewing the costs of training and equipping a team, fire administration proposed a partnership.

Participation

Participation in the program is voluntary.

By sharing resources, each organization will ultimately benefit. With the City and local businesses sharing in the expense, the cost for each participant will be significantly less than if they were to train, staff and equip their own teams.

The Portland Fire Department, already staffed with personnel trained and equipped for technical rescue on a 24-hour basis, is the logical lead agency for providing these specialized services.

By opting to participate in the program, each agency or business would be required to:

- Enter into a contractual partnership with the Portland Fire Department that enables your business or agency to list the Portland Fire Department as your specialized rescue response team.
- Annually renew their partnership for a service period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 each year.

The Technical Response Team is a resource that is both necessary and valuable. Those who partner with us will ensure its continued availability!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The benefits of participation are both simple and substantial. There is minimum expense for each business to become compliant with OSHA regulations concerning permit required confined spaces. In addition to meeting your businesses confined space needs, there may be other areas within your company's scope of work that could benefit from the availability of our Response Team.

In addition, a close working relationship will be created between the businesses and the Response Team through preplanning and ongoing training sessions. Only those businesses participating in the cooperative will be authorized to list the Portland Fire Department as their confined space rescue provider.

YOU BENEFIT BY PARTICIPATING IF:

- Your business or industry has OSHA regulated confined spaces.
- Your business is involved in construction and/or maintenance activities in below grade or elevated environments.
- Your business or industry utilizes hazardous processes.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

For more information about the cooperative, or to learn how to participate, please contact:

Portland Fire Department
380 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8400
Fax: (207) 874-8410
confinedspace@portlandmaine.gov
www.portlandmaine.gov

Fee structure:

1 to 3 Confined Spaces	\$2,500 annually
4 to 6 Confined Spaces	\$5,000 annually
7 to 10 Confined Spaces	\$7,000 annually
11 to 20 Confined Spaces	\$14,000 annually
21 to 30 Confined Spaces	\$21,000 annually
31 to 40 Confined Spaces	\$28,000 annually
41 to 50 Confined Spaces	\$35,000 annually
51 to 60 Confined Spaces	\$42,000 annually
61 to 70 Confined Spaces	\$49,000 annually
71 to 80 Confined Spaces	\$56,000 annually
81 to 90 Confined Spaces	\$63,000 annually
91 + Confined Spaces	\$70,000 annually

A per entry fee will be charged to companies for immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) and process entries. The fee is \$250.00 per hour and includes vehicle and personnel for onsite stand-by services.

A flat fee of \$1000.00 will be charged per non fixed facility with entries being made in a confined space.

PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

CONFINED SPACE RESCUE COOPERATIVE



A public/private partnership to provide
technical rescue services to
business and industry