

 NORFOLK Department of Police	Operational General Order - 785		Confined Space Entry
	Office of Preparation: Strategic Management Division (acb)		
	CALEA:	None	
	VLEPSC:	None	
LEGAL REVIEW DATE:	August 8, 2013	PRESCRIBED DATE:	8/15/13
City Attorney:	<i>Wayne Ringer</i>	City Manager/Director of Public Safety:	<i>W. Anderson</i>
APPROVED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:		<i>[Signature]</i>	

Purpose

The purpose of this order is to outline police department procedures for confined space entry.

Policy

When handling incidents involving confined spaces: members of the Norfolk Department of Police must exercise due caution for the safety of the public as well as themselves and fellow officers. Only properly trained and equipped police personnel may make entry into a permit-required confined space, under the auspices of Norfolk Fire-Rescue, to retrieve or process items of evidentiary value.

Supersedes:

1. G. O. OPR-785, dated December 12, 2009
2. Any previously issued directive conflicting with this order

Order Contents:

- I. Confined Space
- II. Permit-Required Confined Space Program
- III. Entry
- IV. Confined Space Entry Prohibited
- V. Situations Involving the Potential for Confined Space Entry

I. Confined Space

Confined space is defined by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.146(b) as a space that:

1. Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
2. Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.); and
3. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

II. Permit-Required Confined Space Program

Permit-required confined space program (permit space program) is defined by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.146(b) as the employer's overall program for controlling, and, where appropriate, for protecting employees from, permit space hazards and for regulating employee entry into permit spaces.

III. Entry

Entry is defined by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.146(b) as the action by which a person passes through an opening into a permit-required confined space. Entry includes ensuing work activities in that space and is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening into the space.

IV. Confined Space Entry Prohibited

Confined space entry is prohibited for all Police Department personnel except as provided in Section V. B and V.C.

V. Situations Involving the Potential for Confined Space Entry

When in the performance of one's duty, a police officer may come across various situations that may involve confined spaces. When a police officer is confronted with a situation meeting the definition of a confined space as indicated in Section I of this order, the officer will immediately request response by Norfolk Fire-Rescue through the dispatcher, notify his/her supervisor, and ensure that the scene is secured by not allowing any persons to enter the confined space area.

- A. If Norfolk Fire-Rescue determines that the space does in fact meet the criteria for confined space, Norfolk Fire-Rescue will identify and correct

hazards associated with the confined space and permit the space for entry by trained and equipped police personnel, if possible.

- B. Only properly trained and equipped police personnel, with the approval of the Commanding Officer of the Detective Division, or his designee, who have successfully completed a Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Program, approved by the City of Norfolk's City Safety Officer, may make entry into the confined space after the space has been properly permitted by Norfolk Fire-Rescue. Entry may only be authorized for the purposes of retrieving or processing items of evidentiary value.
- C. The only exception to Section V.B, is when an officer is able to make physical contact (limited to one arms length) with a trapped victim and failure to act immediately would place the trapped victim in imminent physical danger.

Related Documents:

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 and 1910.146