

# El Dorado County Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline

---

**Article: 3 Emergency Operations**  
**Section: 26 Confined Space Operations**

Adopted: 08/01/2022  
Revised:

---

### 1. PURPOSE:

This document is to provide operational and safety guidelines for all personnel operating at a Confined Space Entry & Rescue incident. To provide guidelines during entry and rescue operations in a confined space as defined by Cal-OSHA California Code of Regulations Article 108, Confined Space Regulations, and Sections: 5156, 5157 and 5158.

### 2. DEFINITION:

#### **Confined Space:**

Defined by law as an area that meets all of the following criteria:

- Large enough for employees to physically enter and perform assigned work
- Has limited or restricted entry/egress
- Not designed for continuous employee occupancy

#### **Permit-Required Confined Space:**

Defined by law as area that meets the criteria of a confined space with the addition of any one of the following:

- Presence or potential presence hazardous atmosphere
- Presence of engulfment hazard
- Container shaped such that entrants may be trapped/asphyxiated and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- Possesses other recognized serious health and/or safety hazards

### 3. Training Requirements:

- Confined Space Awareness Level compliant with NFPA 1670
- Adequate personnel and equipment to affect a permit-required confined space rescue as defined in the Urban Search and Rescue Operational System Description ICS-USAR-120-1
- Members filling positions of entry group supervisor, attendant or entrant must possess a SFT FSTEP certificate as a Confined Space Technician and have documented participation in an annual confined space drill as one of the four mandated positions (entry group supervisor, attendant, entrant and/or back up)

# El Dorado County Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline

---

Article: 3 Emergency Operations  
Section: 26 Confined Space Operations

Adopted: 08/01/2022  
Revised:

---

#### 4. GUIDELINES:

Confined space rescue operations present a significant danger to fire district personnel. The safe and effective management of these operations requires special consideration and resources. Initial arriving engine companies function at the AWARENESS level. Entry is defined as breaking the plane of the opening to the confined space. Examples of activities and functions appropriate at the AWARENESS level include:

- Recognition of a confined space incident.
- Recognition of confined space hazards.
- Performing a non-entry retrieval.
- Identifying resource needs.
- Initiating response of operations and/or technician level personnel.
- Establishing scene control and management.

*If it is determined that initial units dispatched are not capable of performing tasks required to mitigate the incident. The Incident Commander may request a Technical Rescue Team through the ECC from the Sacramento Region, utilizing the Master Mutual Aide Agreement.*

#### 5. Procedures

##### First-Due Actions

The following guidelines are to be used for strategic and tactical priorities during confined space rescue operations:

- Establish command
- Implement site control and scene management [NFPA 1670 7.2.4(7)]
- Recognize potential for a confined space rescue and request additional resources as needed [NFPA 1670 7.2.4(2)]
- Initiate contact and establish communications with victims when possible [NFPA 1670 7.2.4(3)]
- Recognize and identify the hazards associated with non-entry confined space emergencies [NFPA 1670 7.2.4(3)]
- Perform non-entry retrieval [NFPA 1670 7.2.4(5)]
- Begin atmospheric monitoring when available
- Increase survivability profile, i.e. create a micro-climate around victim; ventilate area, etc.

# El Dorado County Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline

---

**Article: 3 Emergency Operations**  
**Section: 26 Confined Space Operations**

Adopted: 08/01/2022  
Revised:

---

### Rescue Company Operations

Check in with command and confirm/determine whether operational strategy is one of rescue or recovery.

If a confined space entry is performed the following guidelines shall be followed:

- Complete a confined-entry permit (EDCFPD Confined Space Entry Permit)
- Initiate pre-entry atmospheric monitoring and ventilation as soon as possible
- Assess and improve survivability profile
- Secure all energy sources via lock-out/tag-out prior to entry
- Establish primary and secondary communication systems
- Fill the following positions as soon as possible: rescue/entry group supervisor, assistant safety officer (rescue), air supply group, etc.
- Conduct a pre-entry safety briefing prior to confined space entry
- Safety briefings should at minimum include: rescue/ entry group supervisor, safety officer, attendant, entrant and back-up entrant

### PPE

Individual departments as well as incident specific hazards may dictate the use of safety gear beyond the minimum.

The minimum required PPE shall be:

- Helmet
- Long sleeve shirt and pants
- Work gloves
- Steel-toe/shank boots

### ATTACHMENTS

- A. EDCFPD Confined Space Permit