SAFETY FLASH 25-106: MEASURING THE ATMOSPHERE IN ENCLOSED SPACES



A wrong or missing measurement in an enclosed space can be deadly. Toxic gases, low oxygen, or explosive air may be invisible, but still deadly.

GOOD PRACTICE

- v Stop ventilation at least 15 minutes before the measurement.
- v Always measure from outside. Only enter after following the correct procedure(s).
- $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ $% \left(\boldsymbol{\nu}\right) =0$ Use only calibrated devices. Let an ADN-Expert do the measurement.
- ν $\,$ Know how to test and use your measuring device correctly.
- \boldsymbol{v} $\,$ Know the limits of each device. Keep the manual with you.
- v Always use a correction table for PID and LELmeasurements and apply the right values.
- v Measure at different heights and spots inside the space.
- v Register all measurements.
- v After a break, measure again before restarting work.
- ν $\,$ Wear the correct PPE. Make sure rescue gear is ready.

BAD PRACTICE

- x Entering a space before measuring (even just putting your head in).
- x Trusting the device without checking it first.
- **x** Measuring without good preparation and calibration.
- x Using the wrong device for a substance.
- x Rushing the measurement.
- x Storing the device while dirty.



Confined Spaces Are Dangerous Places

Never use your nose to detect gas! Dangerous gases or lack of oxygen can't

always be smelled

ACTION QUESTIONS

- Which devices can measure O₂, LEL, H₂S, and other toxic gases? Why can't some devices do this?
- How do correction tables work for PID and LEL devices?
- What should you do if your device does not show a 0 reading for LEL when you start it?



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