

DISCLAIMER: These Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) are for the exclusive use of Navy Public Works Center (PWC) Norfolk. They are promulgated as guidance for their NAVFAC Commands. If intended to be used by other activities, they must be tailored to each activity's particular requirements and must be reviewed/approved by the activity's safety professionals prior to use.

Standard Operating Procedures
Confined Space Entry - Wet Wells

PPE Required:

Back brace (if in the back brace program)
Safety shoes
Hard hat
Leather gloves
Safety goggles
Personal harness retrieval unit

Equipment Required:

Manhole cover hook
Gas-free meter
Fiberglass ladder
Blower with extension hose
Explosion-proof lighting

References:

1. PWC Occupational Safety and Health Program Manual, PWCNORVAINST 5100.33E
2. PWC Occupational Safety and Health Standard Operating Procedures For Confined Space Entry Program, Safety Office SOP No. 001

Procedures:

1. Open access doors.

NOTE: The gas-free part of this procedure may only be performed by a certified confined space person (CSP.)

2. Without entering the space, perform a visual check of the space for hazards associated with wet wells (i.e. oil in the wet well, debris on the steps or platform.)
3. With access doors open, allow the wet well to "air out" for approximately one hour, if possible.
4. Break plane of entry with gas-free meter only.

5. Test atmosphere until meter registers results.
 6. Examine meter results and determine if the space is safe for entry.
 7. Prior to entry, it is mandatory that a blower exhaust fan be used to provide continuous ventilation; if the space is safe for entry, CSP enters the space and looks for hazards associated with wet wells.
 8. CSP briefs the Entry Supervisor and acquires signature on the permit.
 9. CSP writes-up gas-free permit (yellow) or rejection ticket (pink).
 10. Post this ticket immediately adjacent to the point of entry.
 11. Throughout this procedure it is mandatory that continuous monitoring be performed. Thus, the CSP must remain on-site at all times, or he may assign a qualified technician to monitor the space in his absence.
 12. If a space is determined to be unsafe for entry after initial testing, a pink rejection ticket will be posted and additional ventilation will be required prior to entry. Use a blower exhaust fan to provide necessary air exchanges.
 13. After additional ventilation is provided, re-test space. Repeat steps 4 through 12 as necessary.
 14. Once testing indicates the space is safe for entry, performing work center will set-up personal harness retrieval unit and/or ladder as required by the CSP.
- NOTE: The Entry Supervisor is responsible for ensuring all safety procedures are followed by the performing work center.
15. Performing work center will proceed with required work in the wet well.
 16. After work in the wet well is complete, return jobsite to the normal state and discontinue monitoring.
 17. Remove personal harness retrieval unit and/or ladder.
 18. Close access doors.