

# City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 1027

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department to ensure that fire fighters safely carry out their duties at confined space rescue scenes.

**Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect:** November 28, 2005

**Date S.O.G. Revised:** March 14, 2017

**Date Committee Approved S.O.G.:** September 28, 2005

Page 1 of 2

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## GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To establish an operating guideline for a safe working environment for confined space rescue.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 **Definition:** For the purpose of the fire service, a confined space is defined as any area not designed for human occupancy that has limited means of egress, normally having only one way in or out (e.g.-tanks, silos, maintenance vaults, tunnels, hoppers, etc.)

2:02 **Hazards:** In confined spaces, hazards may include toxic and flammable gases, lack of oxygen, moving equipment (e.g.-augers, agitators), electricity, corrosive or toxic liquids, “quick- sand” type material such as moving grain, water and falling objects.

2:03 **Precautions:** The following are minimum precautions:

- Preplan and train for expected confined space rescues.
- Inspect and calibrate gas detection devices.
- Ensure that established lockout procedures for equipment and other hazards have been implemented and followed.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

- Where a flammable or combustible material presents a fire hazard, stage personnel in full protective gear with a backup hose line at the entrance to the confined space.

2:04 All personnel shall be trained to a minimum of the “Awareness Level” for confined space rescue as outlined in *NFPA 1670 Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents*. The “Awareness Level” training should include the following:

- Hazardous materials incidents and identification.
- Be responsible for performing certain non-entry rescue (retrieval) operations.
- Recognize the need for confined space search and rescue.
- Initiating contact and establishing communications with victims where possible.
- Recognize and identify the hazards associated with non-entry confined space emergencies.
- Recognize confined spaces
- Perform non-entry retrievals
- Notifying of outside agencies for assistance with confined space emergencies.
- Site control and scene management.

2:05 Any confined space rescue that is beyond the minimum training level of the Belleville Fire Department, an outside agency shall be contacted immediately. These agencies contact phone numbers will be located in the RTO “Emergency Contact Book”.

2:06 This training shall be conducted yearly for all personnel.

3:00 **Scope:**

3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.

3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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