Confined Space Rescue Team: “Who we are & what we do”
Confined Space Rescue Team

What is a “Confined Space”?  
A confined space is a federal regulatory term used to describe an area that:
1. is large enough and so arranged that an employee can bodily enter it,
2. has limited or restricted entry or exit points (e.g., manhole, vent, or other openings), and
3. is not designed for continuous occupancy.

Some confined spaces are further defined as “Permit Required.” These spaces may contain potential hazards such as:
- Atmospheric hazards, such as lack of oxygen or toxic substances.
- Physical hazards, such as pits, trenches, or other hazards.
- Confined spaces with limited entry.

The UVM Campus contains 43 utility manholes and 242 identified confined spaces, including 122 “Permit Required” spaces.

Why the CSRT is needed
In accordance with federal regulations, the University is responsible for ensuring the safety of employees entering confined spaces.

The training and compliance office (T&CO) within the physical plant department manage and oversee the program for maintenance personnel to safely enter these confined spaces.

Meet the Team
The CSRT team is currently made up of staff volunteers within the physical plant. The 2017 members include:
- Andrew Blount, TCO
- Chris Walker, TCO
- David Wirth, Blow Zone
- Gregory Perea, Blow Zone
- Jack Delos, Utility Zone
- James Tracy, Utility Zone
- John Leonard, South Zone
- Joe Thibault Jr, Blow Zone
- Joseph Bauadio, Site Safety
- Ray Down, Utility Zone
- Richard Barry, Davis Coater Operations
- Richard White, Utility Zone
- Stephen Jamasneen, TCO
- Vincent Beam, TCO

Train and Preparation
The team participates in extensive training and preparedness drills throughout the year to be ready at a moment’s notice.

Whenever Physical Plant maintenance personnel are about to enter a “confined space,” the members of the CSRT are put on alert via text messages through Service Operations Support (SOS). The mobile CSRT vehicle containing all the necessary equipment is transported nearby the work site in the event the team is needed.

Safe Entry into Confined Spaces
Physical Plant Department personnel regularly perform routine and emergency maintenance in Permit Required Confined Spaces.

Prior to entering these spaces, the entry team must complete a Written Permit to evaluate hazards of the space, plan their procedures for safe entry, and utilize measures (such as barriers) to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the space.

An Attendant must be stationed outside the confined space at all times whenever an Authorized Entrant is inside. The attendant monitors activities and conditions both inside and outside the space to determine if it’s safe for entrants to remain inside, and orders the entrants to evacuate immediately if a hazard is identified.

Tools of the Trade
Safety equipment is paramount for this team to function:
- Atmosphere testing and monitoring equipment
- Ventilation equipment
- Communications equipment (e.g., walkie-talkies)
- Ladders for safe ingress and egress
- Personal Protective Equipment or “PPE” (e.g., harness, hard hat, headlamp)
- Rescue and emergency equipment such as a tripod with hoist to assist in the removal of workers.

Did you know?
Entry teams use 4 gas meters to continually monitor levels of combustible gases, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide within the confined space.
UVM Team works in conjunction with Burlington Fire Department
• Help keep employees safe when they enter confined spaces to do maintenance
• 200+ confined spaces on UVM campus (vaults, tanks, tunnels, etc.)
• OSHA-required program
• UVM is unique because we have our own internal team
Confined Space Rescue Team Roster
(18 UVM employees & 2 UVM student volunteers)

- Chris Walker (TCO)
- David Blatchly (DIR)
- Gregory Peryea (DAVIS)
- Jack Corliss (UTIL)
- John Leonard (SOUTH)
- Jon Thibault Jr. (DAVIS)
- Joe Beaudry (LSS)
- Ray Doner (UTIL)
- Richard Barry (DAVIS OPS)
- Rick Weld (UTIL)
- Stephen Znamierowski (TCO)

- Vince Brennan (TCO)
- Chris Panko (TCO)
- Rebecca Myer (DIR)
- Daniel Lowe II (TCO)
- Kevin Sweeney (DIR-ENGIN)
- Matthew L. Farnham (SOUTH)
- Zachary Borst (EMERGENCY MGT)
- Christopher Guido (STUDENT-RESCUE)
- Jason Drebber (STUDENT-RESCUE)
• The CSRT members are paged ahead of time whenever someone is going ‘in a hole’ to do maintenance.
• The CSRT vehicle is moved to the location.
• Team uses Motorola radios for instant communications.
PPE includes SCBA, helmets, gloves, masks, boots, Tyvek, headlamps and 4-gas meter.
• Monthly meetings
• Trainings in field
• Mock drills
• Routine inspection of our equipment
2019 Team Building Retreat at the UVM Ropes Course
• Teamwork
• Skills
• Trust
• Safety
Interested in joining the team?

Contact Steve Z. at PPD
Training & Compliance Office