Unit 105: Protecting health, safety and the environment when working in the construction and built environment sector

# Worksheet 21: Confined spaces (tutor)

When working on site you must ensure that you are conducting yourself in a safe manner and that you are maintaining a safe site at all times. Working in and around objects, materials, chemicals, gases and power can pose problems.

1. Look at the following potential hazards on a site and identify the problem.

| **Name** | **Problem** |
| --- | --- |
| **Gas** | Working in and around gas is very dangerous. Ensure that no naked flames are present; ensure that safe permit is in place if needed. Gas can have the potential to cause a fire and explosions. |
| **Electricity** | Working in and around electricity is very dangerous. Ensure that cables are not left bare; ensure that safe permit is in place if needed. Electricity can have the potential to cause a fire and explosions. |
| **Water (fresh)** | Working in and around water is very dangerous. Open pools or large water containers have the potential to cause drowning.  Safety equipment should always be on standby when working in and around water. Permits to work should also be requested for certain areas with ah high volume of water present.  Flooding is also an area of concern if the water is not controlled properly which can cause secondary problems such as electrical damage which can cause a fire. |
| **Water (waste)** | Working in and around water is very dangerous. Open pools or large water containers have the potential to cause drowning.  Safety equipment should always be on standby when working in and around water. Permits to work should also be requested for certain areas with ah high volume of water present.  Wastewater in particular can carry harmful bacteria which can spread disease. Wastewater can cause lots of skin, breathing and internal problems. |
| **Trenches** | Open trenches have the potential to cause harm if they are not protected or controlled properly. Trench collapse, subsidence, or the worker falling into the trench, are all problems that can arise by poor management of the site and controlling the hazard. |
| **Confined space** | A confined space has the potential to cause the worker to faint or pass out if there are chemicals or substances present in the confined space. Death by lack of oxygen can be a problem in a confined space. |
| **Loft/attic space** | A loft/attic space has the potential to cause the worker to fall from a height if they lose their balance or don’t have a firm grip on something.  Loft spaces occasionally don’t have appropriate flooring or walkways and it is difficult for the user to manoeuvre safely around the area. |