



MARINER'S UPDATE
COMPLIANCE WITH SIMPLICITY

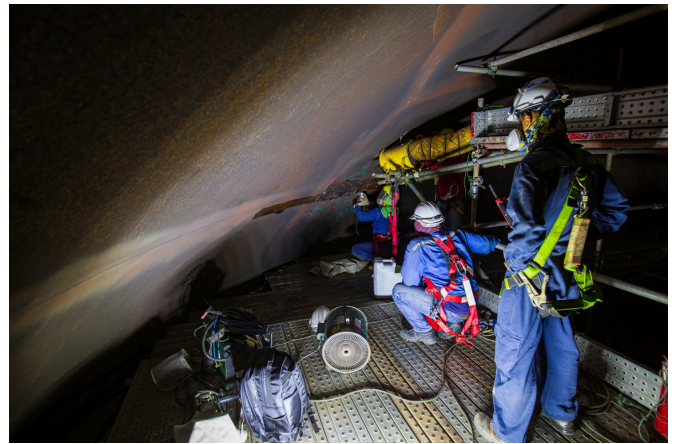
ENCLOSED SPACES: SMALL MISTAKES, FATAL CONSEQUENCES



CREW SAFETY ALERT

One Breath Too Many: Why Enclosed Spaces Keep Claiming Lives

Enclosed space entry remains one of the most persistent causes of multiple-fatality incidents at sea — and in many cases, it is not only the first person who dies, but the colleague who rushes in to help.



Why the Atmosphere Turns Deadly

- **Oxygen depletion:** Rusting steel, drying paint, and certain cargoes (grain, coal, DRI, timber, steel products) consume oxygen inside a closed space, sometimes within hours.
- **Toxic and flammable gases:** Cargo off-gassing, residues, and decomposing organic matter can release hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide, or hydrocarbon vapours with little or no warning smell.
- **Invisible risk:** A space can look, smell, and feel completely normal while the atmosphere inside is already unable to support life.

A PATTERN WORTH REMEMBERING

In many fatal incidents, the first casualty collapses quickly and silently. A second — or even third — crew member is then overcome attempting a rescue without testing the atmosphere or wearing breathing apparatus.



PREVENTIVE ACTION

Six Rules That Save Lives

1

Permit before entry, always

No one enters an enclosed space without a completed, signed entry permit — regardless of how routine or short the job seems.

2

Test the atmosphere properly

Check oxygen, flammable gas, and toxic gas levels at multiple heights before entry, using a calibrated, working gas meter.

3

Ventilate continuously

Mechanically ventilate before and throughout the entry — never rely on a single test result to declare a space safe for the whole job.

4

Post a standby person

A dedicated, briefed person remains at the entrance at all times, in constant communication, with rescue equipment ready to hand.

5

Never rescue without protection

A collapsed crew member must never trigger an unprotected rescue. Raise the alarm, don breathing apparatus, and follow the emergency plan.

6

Drill it until it's instinct

Regular enclosed space entry and rescue drills ensure that, in a real emergency, the safe response is the automatic one.

BEFORE ANY ENTRY, ASK

Has the permit been signed? Has the atmosphere been tested at all levels? Is ventilation running? Is a standby person in place with rescue gear ready? If the answer to any of these is no — do not enter.

SAFETY REMINDER

No task inside an enclosed space is urgent enough to skip the checks. The space will still be there in ten minutes — make sure you will be too.

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