**General**

Places such as tanks or manholes are obvious confined spaces, but so is any area that has limited entry or exit and could include open pits, deep trenches, ditches, tunnels, wells, ship holds, sub cellars, culverts, silos and vaults.

**Hazards** may include: poor air quality, chemical exposures, fire hazard, noise, moving parts, structural hazards, entanglement, slips, and falls, radiation, temperature extremes including atmospheric and surface, shifting or collapse, flood or release of free flowing solid, uncontrolled energy including electrical shock, visibility and biological hazards. Some ditches now have pipelines running in or along them and electrical cables.

**Recommendations**

Develop a written confined space program for confined spaces in your workplace. There are three parts to a confined space program:

1. **Recognize** or identify a confined space;
2. **Assess** the confined space hazards/risk;
3. **Control** the hazards by developing an entry plan for the confined space in consultation with OHS Committee that includes:
   - Checking the environment prior to entering by a suitably trained person
   - Develop and implement an “Entry Permit System”
   - Train everyone involved

**Conclusion**

Confined spaces can be below or above ground. Confined spaces can be found in almost any workplace. A confined space, despite its name, is not necessarily small. Examples of confined spaces include silos, vats, hoppers, utility vaults, tanks, sewers, pipes, access shafts, truck or rail tank cars, aircraft wings, boilers, manholes, manure pits, storage bins, ditches and trenches.