



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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July 13, 1993

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Captain Robert D. Stacklie
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
19365 SW 90th Court
Tualatin OR 97062

Dear Mr. Stacklie:

This is in response to your letter of July 7, 1993, regarding your department's plan to initiate a program of "fee for service" confined space rescue.

You asked for clarification on several issues related to the new permit-required confined space standard. Under the standard, the employer is responsible for employee safety when entering confined spaces, a part of which is to have a plan for rescue of confined space entrants. The employer using your service, even under a contract, would need to verify the availability of an off-site service prior to each permit-required confined space entry. At that point, you would indicate your availability and if you were engaged in another rescue, they could not authorize entry.

You also discussed potential response times for your service. The rule itself does not specify a response time. The preamble to the rule states that OSHA feels that on site rescue teams are the preferred method due to the ideal rescue time being four minutes or less. They however, recognized that this would pose an undue burden for many small firms and allowed the option of using off-site rescue services.

Oregon OSHA adopted the federal standard by reference with an effective date of 7-1-93. The classification of spaces is between those where a permit is required and those where it is not.

I have enclosed a copy for your reference. Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards and Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division