 NRASP NEWS

Inside this Edition:

Page 1 – Carry on the

 Conversation

Page 2 – Upcoming

 NRASP Lunches

Page 2 – Next month

Lunch and Learn “Starting the Conversation”

**NRASP – April 2016**

On April 20th the NRASP held a Lunch n’ Learn:

**Presenter:** Jack Kolberg, AGC of ND Safety Services

**Topic:** Confined Spaces

This article of the newsletter focuses on the luncheon of April 2016. If you were able to attend the luncheon, this article carries on the conversation the presenter started at the luncheon. If you were unable to attend this is helpful for really anyone who may work at a facility with confined spaces.

**Recap “Confined Spaces:”**

**Competent Person Requirements**

* Knows the right standards
* Ability to identify hazards in operation (known or perceived hazards)
* Has the authority to take appropriate actions

**What is a confined space?**

* Has limited means of entry
* Is large enough for a worker to enter and exit
* Not intended for continuous worker occupancy

**Types of Confined Spaces**

* A *non-permit required* space doesn’t have the potential to cause death or serious harm (no atmospheric hazards)
* A *permit required* space has the potential to cause death or serious harm. An entry permit is required to be completed by the Entry Supervisor prior to entrance.
* The need for a permit is based on the characteristics of the confined space
	+ If the internal configuration is open and has no obstacles – no permit is required for entry
	+ If the internal configuration is obstructed or poses any potential of death or harm – permit required space

**Roles in Confined Space Entry**

* Duties of *Entry Supervisor*
	+ This person is responsible for determining acceptable entry conditions (e.g. supervisor, employee, foreman)
	+ Performs and/or oversees all atmospheric testing before and during as needed based on atmospheric conditions entrants may be exposed to
	+ Completes the Entry Permit and posts at entrance of confined space before any work occurs
* Duties of *Attendant*
	+ This person is responsible for knowing the hazards
	+ Is aware of effects the hazards may expose on entrants
	+ Keeps an accurate count of authorized entrants at all times
	+ Has the authority to require all entrants vacate the confined space at any point in time when there is concern of harm, damage or worse
* Duties of *Authorized Entrant*
	+ This person needs to Know the hazards faced during entry
	+ Must properly use equipment
	+ Communicate with the Attendant

***NRASP Monthly Luncheon Topics***

**May** – Kathy Kulesa – ND DOL – Topic Maintaining a Safe & Discrimination Free Workplace

**June** – Randy Niles – SDS/GHS updates – What needs to be done now?

**July** – Golf Outing – Fargo/Moorhead Fire Marshalls

Starting the Conversation…”Maintaining a Safe & Discrimination Free Workplace”

*Upcoming May 2016 NRASP luncheon*

**Presenter- Kathy Kulesa – ND Department of Labor**

The session will comprise of an overview of anti-discrimination laws with an emphasis on religion and culture.  We have posed the following questions to Kathy:

*Do you have a Safety related Question you would like to send out to the NRASP membership group? Submit your safety related question to* nraspsafetypros@gmail.com *. All questions will be monitored and then sent out to the NRASP membership. Results to be posted on the NRASP website. More details coming soon.*

* How do we manage religious practice that seems be at odds with safe work practice?  What is the employer’s duty to accommodate?
* How do we separate culture from religion when it comes to discrimination?
* What is the employer’s duty to overcome language barriers?  We know it can be the basis of an OSHA citation.  Can failure to effectively overcome language barriers result in claims of discrimination?

Our past sessions with Kathy have tended to be interactive.  As such, feel free to share any questions or challenges you have come across in your own workplace.

***Use this information to spark some questions and bring those questions with you to the next lunch and learn.***