

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION

SUMMARY

Maintenance Fuel Operations Confined Space Close Calls
Our AF procedures and operations may need another look

BACKGROUND

From 2007 to 2017 fuel cell maintenance personnel have experienced four separate close calls that could have been fatalities:

1. Workers attempted to ventilate an aircraft fuel tank with a pedestal floor fan, the entrant became dizzy while working in the tank from fuel vapor.
2. Entrant entered tank without a mask because the fit test certification was expired. Attendant did not question the entrant. Entrant became dizzy from vapor.
3. Entrant collapsed in aircraft fuel tank. Entrant not wearing air line mask. Attendant attempted rescue without mask. PID readings not recorded, workers unaware of readings.
4. Air compressor feeding air line respirators failed. Entrant unable to breathe inside tank, took off mask and hyperventilated.

How prepared are our CS attendants in handling the responsibilities of their position?
How much oversight does supervision have on daily CS operations?

PRECAUTIONS

- Confined space workers must know how to use, interpret, and record data from PIDs
- Supervisors must confirm CS workers understand and are able to follow procedures, such as those outlined by the MEP, AFI 91-203, and T.O. 1-1-3.
- The CSPT should revoke MEPs where organizations fail to follow procedures or demonstrate a lack of CS proficiency.
- Organizations must complete CS entry permits before entry. A good indicator of poor CS management is incomplete/inconsistent or missing permits. Entry permits must be filled out IAW 91-203 and T.O. 1-1-3.



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LESSONS LEARNED

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