Guidance for Confined Space Entry

Highlight Key:  
- Yellow = NC Central University
- Red = Contractor
- Green = Both

Does the workplace contain Confined Spaces as defined by §1910.146(b)?
- NO  
  Consult other applicable OSHA standards

Does the workplace contain permit-required confined spaces as defined by §1910.146(b)?
- NO
  Prevent employee entry as required by §1910.146(c)(3). Do task from outside of space.
- YES
  Inform employees as required by §1910.146(c)(2).

Will permit spaces be entered?  
- NO
  Task will be done by contractors’ employees. Inform contractor as required by §1910.146(c)(8)(i), (ii) and (iii). Contractor obtains information required by §1910.146(c)(9)(i), (ii) and (iii) from host.
- YES
  Will contractors enter?
  - NO  
    Both contractors and host employees will enter the space?
    - NO  
      Prevent unauthorized entry. STOP
    - YES
      Coordinate entry operations as required by §1910.146(c)(8)(iv) and (d)(11). Prevent unauthorized entry.
      
  - YES
    Will host employees enter to perform entry tasks?
    - NO
      Prepare for entry via permit procedures.
      
    - YES
      Verify acceptable entry conditions (test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.).
      
      Permit issued by authorizing signature. Acceptable entry conditions maintained throughout entry.
      
      Entry tasks completed. Permit returned and canceled.
      
      Audit permit program and permit based on evaluation of entry by entrants, attendants, testers and preparers, etc.

*Spaces may have to be evacuated and re-evaluated if hazards arise during entry.

Does space have known or potential hazards?
- NO  
  Not a permit-required confined space. §1910.146 does not apply. Consult other OSHA standards.
- YES
  Can the hazards be eliminated?
  - NO  
    Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only?
    - NO
      Permit not valid until conditions meet permit specifications.
      
    - YES
      Space may be entered under §1910.146(c)(5). STOP
      
  - YES
    Prepare for entry via permit procedures.
    
    Verify acceptable entry conditions (test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.).
    
    Permit issued by authorizing signature. Acceptable entry conditions maintained throughout entry.
    
    Entry tasks completed. Permit returned and canceled.
    
    Audit permit program and permit based on evaluation of entry by entrants, attendants, testers and preparers, etc.

Emergency exists (prohibited condition). Entrants evacuated entry aborts. (Call rescuers if needed). Permit is void. Reevaluate program to correct/prevent prohibited condition. Occurrence of emergency (usually) is proof of deficient program. No re-entry until program (and permit) is amended. (May require new program.)