

5 WARNING SIGNS YOU'RE ABOUT TO CUT A CORNER

**If something doesn't
feel right, stop the job.**

You have the stop-work authority.
Use it. No explanation required.



FAMILIARITY IS NOT SAFETY



"We've cleaned this tank a hundred times. Nothing has changed."

01

Confined space hazards change without warning. Residual product, poor ventilation, or a different prior load can instantly turn a familiar tank lethal.

YOU CANNOT SENSE WHAT WILL KILL YOU



"It's been aired out long enough. I can tell."

02

You cannot see or smell oxygen deficiency, carbon monoxide, or lethal concentrations of H₂S. Experience cannot substitute for atmospheric monitoring. Test it. Every time.

CONFINED SPACES DON'T GIVE SECOND CHANCES



"We'll skip this one step and fix it properly next time."

03

Most confined space fatalities happen not from ignorance, but because a small deviation felt low-risk in the moment. It wasn't.

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHO THE ATTENDANT IS, YOU DON'T HAVE ONE



"Someone's watching. I think."

04

The attendant is the last line of defense. Every entry requires a dedicated, trained attendant whose only job is monitoring that entry. Not 'someone nearby.'

THROUGHPUT PRESSURE IS REAL. SO ARE CONFINED SPACE FATALITIES



"We need to get this trailer turned. Let's just get in there."

05

Schedule pressure is the top factor in confined space incidents. Real pressures never justify skipping procedure. Procedures don't slow you down; they keep you alive.