SAFETY MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2012

Confined spaces are compartments with limited openings for entry and exit. Usually confined spaces are not intended for human occupancy and are only entered for temporary work such as inspections, maintenance, or repairs. These spaces may be oxygen deficient, contain fire or toxicity hazards or hold fuel, sludge, or other materials that are hazardous. There are many confined spaces aboard a vessel such as fuel tanks and voids. Entering these confined spaces without proper procedures and precautions could cause fires, explosions, bodily injury, illness, or death.

Thus, no one should enter a confined space without 1) notifying a supervisor or captain first to get permission, 2) provide adequate ventilation and ensure proper planning for the entry, or 3) a marine chemist’s certificate that establishes that entry and work in the confined space is safe for the person(s) going inside the confined space and that there are no conditions that would cause a fire, an explosion or create other hazards during the work.