Attention: Chemical supply dealerships, farms, and other employers that use pesticide spray tanks.

Nationally, employees are killed or harmed every year in confined spaces associated with agriculture. Being aware of the danger and familiar with workplace safety procedures are the first steps to staying alive and healthy.

Any tank used for storing, mixing, loading, or spraying pesticides or fertilizers is a confined space when it's large enough to enter (e.g., through an access port) and occupy. Such tanks are covered by confined space rules and require a permit for full or partial entries; and other safeguards.

Some examples of hazards that can exist in tanks and suddenly put lives at risk include:

- Residual liquid or vapor from pesticides or fertilizers
- Low oxygen levels
- Flammable vapor.
- Electrically-powered tools (e.g., welding equipment, grinders, lights)
- Stored energy (e.g., rotating moving parts like agitators).

Suppliers and other employers with employees who may need to enter tanks to clean, maintain, or repair them (e.g., weld) must follow entry and other requirements of the confined spaces rule that applies to them. Find confined space rules and definitions plus resources to help with injury prevention by visiting the Confined Spaces webpage.

To find an electronic copy of this bulletin, go to http://lni.wa.gov/HazardAlerts.

Get 1-on-1 assistance from L&I or visit L&I’s Safety & Health webpage for training, videos, and other resources to help strengthen your safety program.

Share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety network.

This bulletin was developed by L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check related rules for additional requirements.