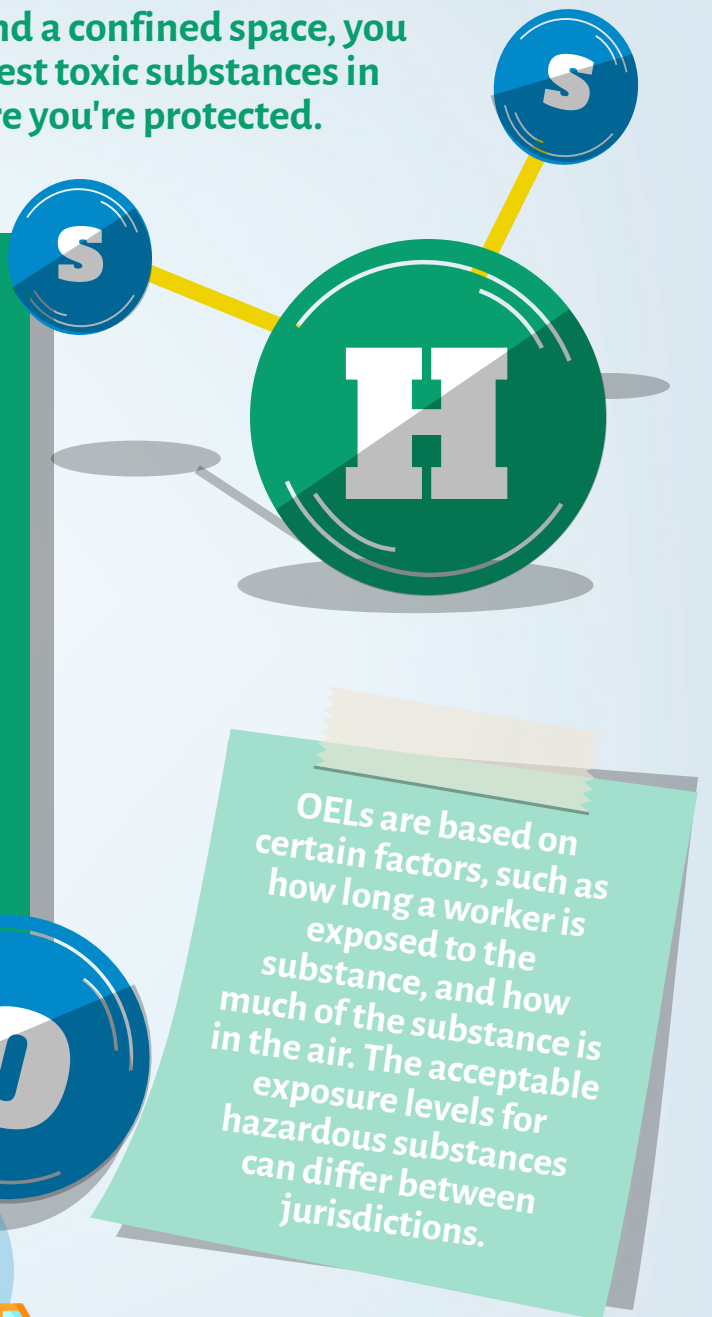


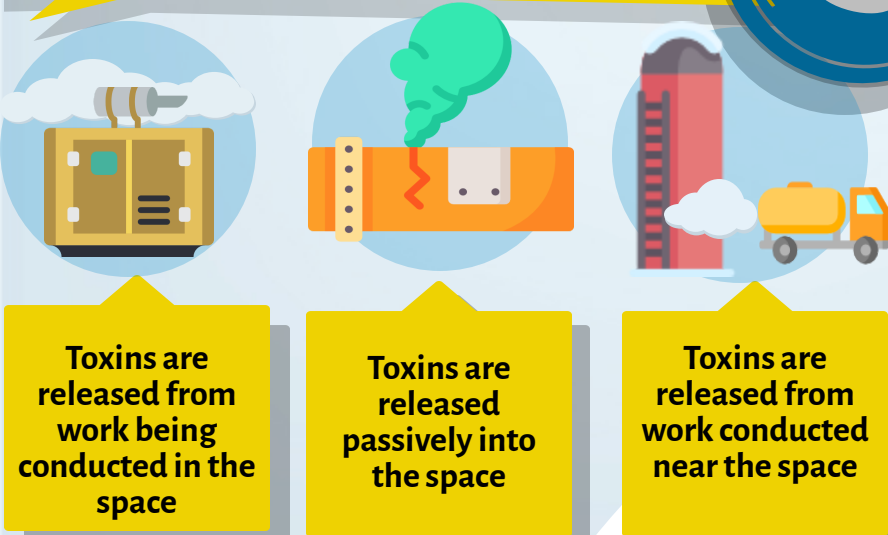
Ensure you're aware of toxic atmospheric hazards

If you're working in or around a confined space, you may inhale, absorb, or ingest toxic substances in the atmosphere. Ensure you're protected.

Toxic atmospheres can be harmful when **Hazardous substances**, such as toxic gases, in the air **EXCEED** their **OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMIT (OEL)**. These levels are the **maximum exposure** a person can have to the substance without harmful effects.



Toxic atmospheres occur when...



Hydrogen sulfide

- Colourless
- In low concentrations, it smells like rotten eggs
- In high concentrations, it can cause a loss of smell
- Irritates the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs
- Extremely high concentrations can stop breathing and lead to death in seconds or minutes
- Heavier than air, settles in low spots
- Burns and explodes easily
- Found in oil tanks, sewers, oil and natural gas wells, pulp and paper mills

The two most common toxic gases found in and around confined spaces are **hydrogen sulfide** and **carbon monoxide**.

Carbon Monoxide

- Colourless
- Odourless
- Found in vehicle exhaust
- Is a by-product of incomplete combustion
- In high concentrations, it can lead to a lack of oxygen and eventual death

Always test a confined space before working in or around it.

Know the hazards you're facing, and prepare for them.