September 23, 1996
Reviewed: November 25, 2007

Dave Black
Timber Operators Council
895 Country Club Rd
Suite A-160
Eugene OR 97401

Dear Mr. Black:

This is in response to your August 9, 1996 letter in which you ask, is it necessary for an employer to provide for entry rescue with every permit space entry.

There must be a preplanned rescue procedure set up prior to entry into any confined space.

Where possible the employer should lock out, ventilate or otherwise remove any hazard within the space prior to entry to avoid the necessity of affecting a rescue.

The employer may choose to use one of two methods of rescue from a confined space, entry or non-entry. If non-entry rescue is selected then personnel entering into the confined space must be secured to a retrieval line and a mechanical device set up at the scene to enable a rescuer to remove an injured worker from the space quickly and without injury to the rescuer or further harm to the fallen worker. Rescue personnel must not enter into the confined space under a non-entry system. A harness, lifeline and self supporting winch can normally be used for these types of rescues.

If an entry rescue is selected, then breathing apparatus and other necessary safety equipment must be provided at the scene or arrangements made in advance with an outside rescue provider to perform the rescue.

If we can be of further assistance to you please call OR-OSHA’s Technical Section at (503) 378-3272.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division