

Lessons learned from one of New Zealand's most challenging civil engineering projects: rebuilding the earthquake damaged pipes, roads, bridges and retaining walls in the city of Christchurch 2011 - 2016.

Safety Initiative: Confined spaces “dummy run”

Story: Bridge of Remembrance and Memorial Arch

Theme: Construction

A document describing the confined spaces “dummy run”.

This document has been provided as an example of a tool that might be useful for other organisations undertaking complex disaster recovery or infrastructure rebuild programmes.

For more information about this document, visit www.scirtlearninglegacy.org.nz



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SAFETY INITIATIVE



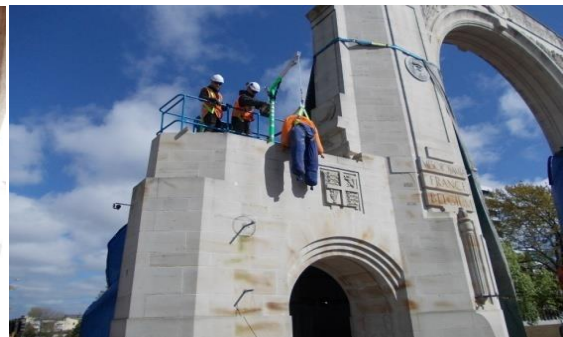
Confined Spaces “dummy run”



(1) Rescue Dummy



(2) Confined Space



(3) Hoisting Dummy out through column and lowering to ground

What is the initiative?

As part of the Triumphal Arch Seismic Strengthening, workers need to access the base of the structure inside the columns. This involved workers entering a confined space, this initiative directly involves our confined space critical risk. An in depth SWMS has been produced along with a rescue plan. Before work was started, a trial rescue was performed to enable all members of the construction team the opportunity to go through the planned procedures. The trial involved creating a rescue dummy by filling overalls with material to create a life like worker and a harness was fitted. The dummy was positioned inside the column, attached to the rescue line and the stand over at the top of the column winched the dummy up through the column. The dummy was then lowered down the outside of structure. The trial was a success and all the right procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the workers entering the confined space.

How was it identified?

The trial rescue was performed to test the rescue procedures put in place for the confined spaces work. It also gave the workers a chance to practice a rescue and to ensure everyone knows their roles in the event of a real emergency.

Benefits and future plans

- Testing rescue procedures without exposing workers to a potential dangerous environment.
- Same procedure to be used for access into the base of all four columns.
- Enables work to be safely carried out inside the Arch Columns.
- All workers understanding their role in the event of an emergency.
- Provides secondary escape route in the event of an emergency.
- Same trial rescue can be carried out on other jobs with complex confined spaces entry.
- Directly addresses Critical Risk No 3 Confined Spaces, training and competency.

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