

WAC 296-307-65016 Use nonentry rescue systems or methods whenever possible. (1) The employer must use nonentry retrieval systems or methods to rescue entrants in a permit-required confined space unless this:

- (a) Would increase the overall risk of injury to entrants; or
- (b) Would not contribute to the rescue of the entrant.

(2) The employer must make sure each entrant uses a chest or full-body harness, with a retrieval line attached to the harness at one of the following locations:

- (a) At the center of the employee's back, near shoulder level.
- (b) Above the employee's head.

(c) At another point which presents a profile small enough for the successful removal of the employee.

(3) The employer must attach the retrieval line to a mechanical device or fixed point outside the space, so rescue can begin as soon as necessary.

(4) The employer must make sure a mechanical device is available to retrieve entrants from vertical spaces more than five feet (1.52 m) deep.

Note: When the employer can demonstrate that the use of a chest or full-body harness is not feasible or creates a greater hazard, then the employer may use wristlets or another method shown to be the safest and most effective alternative.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 20-21-091, § 296-307-65016, filed 10/20/20, effective 11/20/20; WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-65016, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]