

SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker from
The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

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Thank you for your maritime service and taking the time to review our Newsletter. We at the Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. hope you find the following information helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



DANGER LURKS IN CONFINED SPACES!



In spite of years of awareness and warnings, mariners and shipyard workers are still encountering toxic confined spaces in the course of their job responsibilities. The Coast Guard has recently warned of these dangers in spite of the known hazard. Tankers and fuel barges are not the only vessels where this danger can be encountered. Even aboard dry cargo ships any confined space that has not been properly aired or ventilated can pose a deadly risk. Be sure that all safety steps have been taken before you are asked to enter such a space. Being provided the necessary SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) is also imperative if there is any question as to the safety of the area.

QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE



I was recently aboard a dry cargo ship and was asked to go down into a space that had only been ventilated by opening the access hatch. I refused unless I was accompanied with another crew member. Eventually, they reluctantly agreed and sent another sailor with me. We did not encounter any real problems but it was poorly lit and had very stale air. Should I have refused

altogether without some type of air pack?

Linden B. Norfolk, VA

Answer: It is always safer to have someone with you when you don't know what you are going to encounter. However, a breathing apparatus would have been safer. Next time, ask for them as most all ships are required to carry them. Keep in mind that more than 50% of the workers in confined spaces that die from toxic fumes are those attempting to rescue another coworker.

About Our Law Firm

For more than four decades, merchant mariners, longshoremen, fishermen and harbor workers plying their trades at sea, on the docks, on our U.S. coastal waters and inland waterways have turned to the maritime law firm of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates in Oakland. Today, we are proud to be recognized as one of the preeminent maritime law firms serving injured marine workers nationwide, as well as one of the most successful personal injury litigation firms serving victims of negligence in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the West Coast.

Team Approach to Every Personal Injury and Jones Act Claim

When you retain Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates for a Jones Act injury claim, or personal injury claim, you don't get just one attorney, you get our entire team of dedicated professionals. Our attorneys offer many years of courtroom and negotiated claims settlement experience. We will represent your interests with unwavering dedication, speed and expertise.

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