



# MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MANUAL

## OCN 8.9 R/V Oceanus Confined Space Rescue

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### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines to be followed when conducting a confined space rescue onboard R/V Oceanus.

### 2. Responsibility

Responsibility for confined space rescues ultimately rests with the Master. The Master will, in most cases, designate an on-scene coordinator to oversee the procedure - usually the Chief Mate.

### 3. General

All confined spaces shall be considered dangerous until proven otherwise. No entry to any confined spaces will be allowed without the express permission of the Master. All confined spaces must be tested for oxygen content (minimum 19.5%) prior to being entered. The ONLY exception would be a trained person wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) as part of a team dealing with an emergency. However, the preferred method is to have the space well ventilated and tested before entering.

If the incident occurs in port, every attempt will be made to contact shore side assistance (fire-rescue) to assist the ship's effort.

In an emergency, rescue from a confined space must follow a sequence of safety precautions. The object is two-fold: (1) to not cause any further harm to the rescuers and (2) remove the person to be rescued as quickly and efficiently as conditions permit. Since time is of the essence, the rescue effort (with few exceptions) will involve the use of SCBA gear and medical oxygen (if needed) for the person to be rescued. Since the rescue must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, a determination must be made by the person in charge as to how to address the effort. Considerations would include type of space, vertical or horizontal extraction interferences, atmosphere, visibility, chemicals, gases, injury(ies) to victim(s), rigging options and equipment to be used.

If it is determined that medical treatment is needed, either precautionary or definitive, the first effort will be on-scene utilizing the ship's resources while the officer on watch contacts the current medical advisory provider for further advice and treatment.

Follow-up procedures require an investigation be held in order to determine: (1) the cause of the incident that required extraction and (2) to make a determination of what can be done to prevent this from happening again.

### 4. Reporting

All confined space entries shall be logged in NS5.