Buddy System for Non-Permit Confined Spaces
Confined Space Standard Operating Procedure (CS-SOP-1)

**Purpose:** It is understood that the permit-required confined space (PRCS) program is designed to protect entrants from hazardous atmospheres and other recognized serious safety and health hazards. However, accidents can happen and something as simple as a bump on the head could incapacitate a worker. Therefore, this SOP establishes the requirement to use the buddy system when conducting work inside confined spaces not defined as permit-required confined spaces (PRCS).

**Regulations:** OSHA 29 CFR 1910.146

**Applicability:** This SOP shall apply to all personnel at IU Northwest.

**Standard Operating Procedure:**

1. When scheduling work to be completed in non-permit confined spaces be sure that there are at least two authorized employees available: one to serve as the entrant and another to serve as the buddy.
2. Both entrant and buddy must have previously completed confined space entry training as outlined in the Confined Space Program, Section VII (H).
3. Although the buddy is permitted to enter the non-permit confined space to assist the primary entrant, the main goal of the buddy is to monitor the entrant and be able to summon rescue and other emergency services as soon as he/she determines that the entrant may need assistance. However, it is preferred that the buddy remain outside of the confined space and serve as an authorized attendant (duties identified in Section VII (C)(3)) like those required for PRCS, if at all possible.
4. Be sure to complete the confined space entry log at the entrance of the non-permit confined space. If there is no confined space entry log at the entrance, please fill one out (available online) and forward it to EH&S for review.

April 16, 2013