

This Week's Learning Objective:

Assessment of the Crawlspace

Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of "Things to Consider" sheet for each attendee.

A copy of the PestSure Safety Tip – "Crawl Space Access Safety" to read to the group during this session.

Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. Review the PestSure Safety Tip – "Crawl Space Access Safety". Encourage discussion.
2. Each attendee should have a copy of the "Things to Consider" sheet to take notes.
3. Review the "Things to Consider" sheet discussing each point in the table. As a group, and discuss any items specific to your work in crawlspaces.
4. Open the discussion to the attendees. See Leader Tips below.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Leader Tips:

Announce the learning objective: Our objective today is _____

Explain to the group why this topic is being reviewed:

- Prevent you from being injured
- Prevent property damage
- Prevent injury to others
- .

Ask the **group to discuss** the subject matter and give input by drawing from their work experiences:

- Attendee to relate a personal story involving this objective
- Attendee to share something learned on the job involving this objective
- .
- .

Things to Consider in Preparation for Crawlspace Work

Discussion Points:	My Notes:
Access/ Construction Concerns	Access/Construction Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there danger of collapse and can you get out once you get in Covered hazards such as wells or cisterns or sharp debris 	
Electrical Hazards	Electrical Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a device to check any suspect areas for current and visually inspect any exposed electrical wiring in your path before beginning work 	
Lighting	Lighting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the space adequately lit or do you need to run temporary lighting before working 	
Crawling	Crawling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crawlspace access should be done as a team. In lieu of a team, the customer should be notified you will be in the space and a call made to your office prior to entry Crawl suit, knee pads, bump cap, gloves, eye/face protection 	
Standing Water	Standing Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is in and under the water, how deep, any electrical touching 	
Head Injuries	Head Injuries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nails, and other protrusions, falling debris 	
Mold and other air hazards	Mold and other air hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality, dangerous gasses in low areas and mold 	
Insect Concerns	Insect Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE, what is hiding, consider your inability to quickly escape 	
Animal Diseases/Exposure	Animal Disease/Exposure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE, what is hiding, consider your inability to quickly escape, what is left behind 	
Safety gear	Safety Gear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crawl suit, bump cap, eye protection, gloves, what else 	
Documentation	Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo's before and after your work 	

Crawl Space Access Safety

There are a multitude of considerations when entering a crawl area anywhere in a building. This safety tip outlines many of the areas that you need to evaluate carefully before you enter the space. A powerful flashlight and a thorough visual inspection before you enter are your best defense against surprises once you enter and before your mobility is limited. It is your decision to make as to if a space is safe for your entry. Is the structure sound and stable? Can I get back out of the space once I get into the space? What hazards are present and can I adequately protect myself from those hazards? Crawl spaces can contain viral, fungal, or bacterial airborne hazards. They can represent collapse/entrapment, and injury to your body from hazards within or other inhabitants. Always be equipped with the following when entering a crawl space:



- A working cell phone that can get a signal in the space
- Protective gear (bump cap, gloves, knee pads, crawl suit, eye protection, respirator, etc.)
- A bright and working flashlight and a spare

Standing Water?

- Standing water can be a conduit for electricity and the possibility of electric shock exists so check carefully for electrical devices or wiring.

- Water also represents a potential chemical or mold exposure depending upon what has been applied in the space previously.

• Debris?

- Visually inspect for nails, wood splinters, and other construction debris. Broken glass, concrete chunks, tin and other metal can all be found in a crawl space.
- Asbestos insulation that has been damaged or disturbed or perhaps has just deteriorated over the years requires personal protective gear. Is asbestos insulation hanging down or has it fallen to the floor?

• Mold?

- Mold grows on many surfaces. Visually inspect the area you will enter for any mold like growth and be sure to use protective gear if you intend to enter this moldy space.

• Other Inhabitants?

- We are well aware of the risk of illness with rodent activity. Respiratory protection should be utilized if your visual inspection shows evidence of rodent activity.
- Snakes, raccoon, skunk and stinging insects present an extra hazard in a crawl space because of your inability to flee quickly in the limited space.