



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2008**

**CONTACT: DOROTHY O'BOYLE**

**OFFICE PHONE: (405) 390-6606**

**CELL PHONE: (405) 343-4488**

## **EOC TECH CONFINED SPACE RESCUE COURSE DRAWS OUT OF STATE STUDENTS**

**(CHOCTAW, Oklahoma)** May 19-23, Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center (EOC Tech) was the site of a specialized safety training course for Air Liquide team members who arrived from across the country. Air Liquide is a major producer of Oxygen, Nitrogen, Argon, Carbon Dioxide, Hydrogen, and other gases and liquefied gases for industrial, medical, food, and other applications.

Don Blasingame, Industrial Safety and Health Specialist of EOC Tech, explains the scenario which might require people needing such specialized skills saying, "On occasion, it is necessary for trained employees to enter vessels or tanks for maintenance or repairs. Air Liquide has created a special group, known as the "Confined Space Entry Rescue Team" to oversee the vessel entries and provide assistance should a vessel entrant need assistance in getting out of the space."

The course was conducted by Tony Wittmann and Jimmy Barnett, EOC Tech Business and Industry Instructors. Kyle Anderson, plant manager of the Air Liquide, Oklahoma City is the team leader and organizer. The objective was to assist the team members with developing the skills necessary to perform rescue activities safely and quickly.

The class covered the skills needed to enter a confined space safely and assist a possibly injured person in getting out of the space using ropes, pulleys, and in some scenarios rappelling. In addition, participants were instructed how to organize and distribute activities to individual team members enabling a quick and successful extraction.

Don Groves, Health, Safety, and Environmental Field Specialist of Air Liquide says, "I found each exercise to be progressively challenging for the team as new components or difficulties were added as the training progressed through the week. In addition to the hardware skills, our organizational and leadership skills were challenged as we each performed different team assignments so that we all worked together as quickly and efficiently as possible."

All members of the Confined Space Rescue Team are volunteers and will be called from their usual jobs only when needed to help oversee a permit-required Confined Space Entry. Team members

must meet certain requirements, such as being in good health, completing specialized training, and the desire and willingness to perform these activities. Upon successful completion of the class, each participant was given a certificate and card which states the successful completion of 40 hours of the safety training. After the initial training each member is required by Air Liquide to attend an annual refresher class.

Groves adds, “When compared to other training options we found the Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center’s Confined Space Rescue program to be very cost effective and we especially appreciated the instructor’s willingness to modify the class to meet our specific needs.”

To find out more about the industrial safety and health training courses available at EOC Tech or to explore a tailored course to fit the specific needs of a company/industry, contact Don Blasingame, EOC Tech Industrial Safety and Health Specialist at (405) 390-9591 or [donblas@eocotech.org](mailto:donblas@eocotech.org). For a complete list of our extensive course offerings and services available, visit the website at [www.eocotech.org](http://www.eocotech.org).

*For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Dorothy O’Boyle, EOC Tech.*



**Nine students who were certified in EOC Tech’s Confined Space Rescue course were instructed by Tony Wittmann (standing far left) and Jimmy Barnett (standing far right). Kyle Anderson (kneeling far left), Air Liquide Plant Manager, OKC is the Confined Space Rescue Team Leader.**