

Rescue, Training and Competency

Partly driven by the findings of the Alison Hume inquest which found that she could have survived if rank and file firemen had been allowed to do their job and bring her out (Alison had fallen into an open mineshaft and died after fire chiefs refused to mount an immediate rescue operation because of Health and Safety fears), Engenda decided to review the procedures in place to rescue their own personnel who operate in restricted access confined spaces.

At that juncture, Engenda were reliant upon the incumbent site Fire and Rescue personnel to execute any rescue of injured or incapacitated Engenda personnel from confined spaces. Fuelled by the findings of the Alison Hume inquiry, Engenda began extensive research and questioning of these authorities to determine that they had adequate procedures and trained personnel to effect the rescues. It uncovered a trend of reliance upon dynamic risk assessment at the point of the incident and rescue operatives who were mainly just qualified to perform straight open shaft extraction rescues.

Engenda work on Oil Refineries inside the distillation columns. These activities require workers to operate in confined spaces within confined spaces, often referred to as restricted access confined spaces. Having now become concerned and not satisfied with the existing rescue arrangements, Engenda embarked on a program of extensive development and training to set up its own restricted access rescue division.



Client Fire and Safety personnel, local Fire Brigades and leading authorities on confined space rescue were all invited to participate and contribute to the program. Engenda built a training rig to mimic the conditions within a Refinery Column and this was the centre piece for the operation. After a year of intense effort, Engenda successfully completed its goal to have its own rescue teams who would become the stand by personnel overseeing the company's restricted access operations.



Due to the nature of the rescue logistics, bespoke pieces of rescue equipment were developed and certified for use within that particular environment. Rescue workers were trained as EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) and we now had personnel who could extract injured persons using either Stretchers or Rescue Harnesses from the most difficult industrial circumstances. Upon completion of the exercise Engenda invited client Fire and Rescue personnel to its facility to take part in simulated rescues.

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The outcome was that most of the Rescue Personnel admitted they would not have been able to perform the restricted access rescues which Engenda were now doing. A rewarding consequence of this program has been the very positive feedback from our clients, some of whom are now sending their own personnel to Engenda to learn restricted access rescue techniques.



To complete the program, Engenda has encouraged its workforce to take part in simulated rescues so that they all have an understanding of what would be happening in the event of a rescue. In summary, we are proud to have identified a weak area in our clients HSE arrangements and are delighted to have developed and put in place a highly skilled service which helps determine the future safety of our workforce. Engenda are now offering the rescue service as a stand-alone capability and have already secured contracts to provide the service.

Progressing on from the successful implementation of the Column Rescue division described above, the Group have expanded the training facility and the number of courses being delivered both internally and externally to improve both Health and Safety Standards and Competency internally and in the industry as a whole.



Training is delivered for many safety critical activities where competence is key including; Joint/flange integrity, for which 5 specially designed rigs have been design and made to enable operatives to train and practice making



and breaking joints in a safe environment, Working at Height, for which training is given on safe working at height, use of harnesses, rope access and rescue, there are also platforms and rigs set up to simulate working at height in a safe environment.

Confined Spaces, a complex 30 metre multi directional confined space training facility has been constructed combining vertical and horizontal chambers along with the mock refinery distillation column used to train workers in both safe working practices and rescue procedures.

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The facility has been accredited to ISO9001, 14001 and BS OHSAS18001 accreditation in line with the Group vision to have all group companies accredited to the 3 standards for Quality, Environment and Occupational Health and Safety.

The facility and trainers also gained accreditation from the ECITB to deliver their courses including the CCNSG safety Passport courses.

Following accreditation and working closely with the ECITB on the development of confined space training courses, on 13th February 2014 the facility delivered the ECITBs first ever Confined Space course. The ECITB auditor gave Engenda an excellent review audit and described our facilities as the best he had been to in the whole of the UK which we are extremely proud of.

Having an in-house facility for training and competency means we can save time and costs on training and ensure all of our operatives are competent and working safely. Our approved trainers aren't confined to the training centre and they are able to travel to our places of work to deliver CCNSG Safety Passport courses, manual handling, abrasive wheels, harness training and many other courses.

The training facility also continues to invite client site fire and rescue services to use the facility to practice their own rescue skills within a safe environment.

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Engenda Group, Dee House, Hampton Court, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1TT
T: 01928 594900 F: 01928 594999 E: enquiries@engenda-group.com W: www.engenda-group.com
Registered in England. Company No 07098218