



Safety Instruction

Walk-in Coolers and Freezers

Coolers and freezers pose potential entrapment hazards. Latches, hinges, handles and knobs can freeze, warp or malfunction. Not all walk-in freezers have alarms inside to signal for help. Even when equipped with an alarm, the following procedures should be followed to prevent possible entrapment:

1. All employees who will potentially enter a freezer or cold room must be trained in these procedures:
 - a. Take a co-worker with you when you enter the freezer/cooler, and test the door from the inside to ensure that it opens correctly. Test the safety release latch.
 - b. Tell your co-worker how long you intend to be in the freezer/cooler, and have them check on you if you're not out at the designated time.
 - c. If entering a freezer/cooler for only a short period, prop the door open to prevent it from closing behind you. (Note that props can become dislodged, so you should notify a co-worker prior to entry as shown in #2 above.)
 - d. If you plan to be in the freezer/cooler for an extended period, wear proper attire to protect from the cold.
 - e. If there is an emergency alarm, know how it works (if there is an audible alarm, flashing light, whether it calls Facilities or Public Safety, etc.).
2. Post emergency procedures inside the freezer/cooler.
3. Test latches on a regular basis and repair as necessary.
4. If possible, install alarms in walk-in coolers and freezers, and test them regularly.

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