

# PLAYING IT **SAFE**

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by  
**Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd.**

## Working Safely in a Manhole

### *Confined space precautions for workers*

Working in a manhole presents unique and serious safety hazards. Without following safety precautions and wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), the result can be deadly.

#### Confined Spaces

Many confined space fatalities involve multiple victims – the worker and the rescuer. A confined space includes manholes due to their limited openings for entry and exit, unfavourable natural ventilation and not being intended for continuous employee occupancy. Manholes also have the potential to contain:

- a hazardous atmosphere;
- material that could engulf workers;
- a design that could trap workers;
- and/or other serious health risks.

#### Safety Precautions

To avoid potentially deadly accidents and injuries while doing work in a manhole, remember these safety tips.

- Review and the Company policies for confined spaces.
- Never enter a manhole without the proper training to do so.

- Identify and eliminate hazards before entering a manhole.
- Test the oxygen content, flammability, toxicity and explosive hazards as you enter a manhole.
  - *Make sure available oxygen supply is in line with governmental regulations.*
  - *The flammable range should be less than 10 per cent of the lower flammable limit.*
  - *There should be no toxic air contaminants present.*

- Use fall protection, rescue, air monitoring, ventilation, communication and lighting equipment according to company procedures.
- Wear the proper PPE for the conditions of the manhole. This includes respirators, hard hats, waterproof boots, gloves and coveralls. Never enter a manhole without adequate PPE for the job.
- Maintain contact and/or visibility with a trained attendant at all times when working in a manhole.



#### Don't Take Chances...Call for Help!

If you need assistance while working in a manhole, call for help immediately. Do not wait until you can no longer contact someone else to assist you; your life depends on it.

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