



## Industrial Accident (November 2021)

An accident happened at Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works on Lantau Island on 18 November 2021, in which four workers were injured in a sewer manhole. A female worker was certified dead later in a hospital.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be much appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much!

Relevant link: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/19/P2021111900028.htm>  
Source: Information Services Department

## Recommendations

### ► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards before commencement of work, taking into account the nature of the work, restrictive condition of the place of work, locations of nearby facilities, emergency situations and rescue procedures;
2. If man-entry into the underground tunnel or pipe cannot be avoided, provide and maintain a safe system of work;
3. Formulate and implement proper emergency procedures, including provision of sufficient and suitable rescue equipment and presence of a rescue team which should commensurate with the scale of the tasks;
4. Instruct the standby person not to enter the underground pipe even in case of emergency. He / she should remain stationed outside the underground tunnel or pipe and summon assistance of the rescue team and public emergency services; and
5. Provide workers with adequate information, instructions and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures.

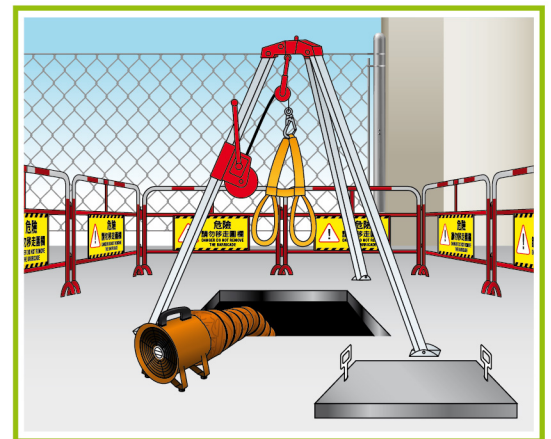
### ► As a Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Ensure the works are carried out in strict accordance with the method statement, safety procedures and safety measures;
2. Implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed by workers;
3. Worker should stop working and report to supervisor immediately when he / she encounters unsafe environment or there is inadequate personal protection equipment provided to him / her; and
4. Do not make unauthorised alteration to the protective measures.

### ► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Conduct risk assessment, identify and address all potential hazards involved in working in confined spaces; and
2. Assist the employer to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed, and to report any non-compliances.

The above only listed out key points of safety, for more information please make reference to the ***A Brief Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulation***, the ***Code of Practice for Safety and Health at Work in Confined Spaces and Prevention of Gas Poisoning in Drainage Work*** issued by the Labour Department.



The confined space has to be adequately purged and sufficiently cooled and ventilated before entry of any certified workers.



Workers should use suitable safety harness connected to a lifeline that is strong enough to enable him to be pulled out.

## Disclaimer

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