



## Work Safety Alert Collapse of a Worker inside an Underground Drain

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** An underground sewage pipe in Central
3. **Summary :**

A drainage worker conducting pipe lining work inside an existing underground sewage pipe of a diameter about 900 mm was found collapsed. He was certified dead later on the same day.

### 4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :**

Contractors/employers undertaking underground sewage pipe works should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments, taking into account the diameter of the pipe involved;
- if the assessment identifies risks of serious injury, avoid man-entry into the pipe;
- if man-entry into the pipe cannot be avoided, implement a safe system for working inside the pipe, covering, among others, safety measures as follows:
  - ensure that only certified workers are allowed to enter the pipe for work and provide them with adequate information, instruction and training;
  - ensure that workers entering the pipe use suitable personal protective equipment, including approved breathing apparatus and safety harness connected to a lifeline that is strong enough to enable him to be pulled out;



- ensure effective communication with the workers working inside the pipe;
- formulate and implement proper emergency procedures, including provision of sufficient and suitable rescue equipment and presence of a rescue team commensurate with the scale of the job; and
- exercise effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

**5. Reference :**

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Brief Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Confined Spaces\) Regulation](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice – Safety and Health at Work in Confined Spaces](#)<sup>1</sup>

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**DISCLAIMER**

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document