



Manhole Cover Incident

Operative has fallen through manhole on site



Whilst strimming, a GM Operative fell through a temporary wooden cover into a manhole chamber at Near Sawrey WwTW in Cumbria.

The manhole chamber had been covered with a wooden board which had gravel on top. The area was so overgrown with vegetation that it was not seen by the operative. Offset from the concealed manhole chamber was a partially overgrown metal manhole cover on the ground, which at the time was believed to be covering a chamber.



Post incident, the overgrown manhole cover was dug out of the ground, the drain top and recess were cleaned out and the manhole cover was placed over the chamber. There was no apparent reason for the cover to have been removed and to have been replaced by a temporary wooden board.

Grounds Maintenance teams have previously been involved in incidents with poorly fitted or unsecure metal coverings over chambers whilst undertaking their work. An investigation has taken place to better understand how we can prevent such incidents in the future.

Next steps:

Managers to ensure:

- Those responsible for sites check the known chamber locations and perform a visual inspection of each chamber.
- Any defects are identified and reported on AIRline.
- Any remedial actions to repair chambers and/or their covers are carried out, where required.



Issued to: Operations, Network, Estate Services, Engineering and Capital Delivery

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Email the Health & Safety mailbox on Outlook for any additional information or guidance.

Spotted a hazard or near miss? Need to report a security incident or accident? DON'T WALK BY! Call AIRLINE 01925 (2) 37111