

**Red Alert: High Priority**

# Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Protection (HSSE)



**This is a Red HSSE Alert. It's high priority and must be shared within 48 hours.**

HSSE reference number: SA-2025-17

Date issued: 29/09/2025

## Fall From Height Into a Wet Well

### Background

After completing maintenance works at a waste pumping station located next to a public highway, a colleague stood on a chamber lid which suddenly gave way, resulting in them falling into a wet well approximately 11 feet deep. Fortunately, other colleagues who were working on site at the time took swift action and were able to rescue the injured person (IP) from the chamber, provide first aid, and transport them to A&E for treatment.

The IP sustained a chipped bone to their elbow and finger, cuts, lacerations, and bruising. However, the potential for more serious injury was obvious. Hydrogen sulphide, a toxic sewer gas and significant inhalation hazard was also found to be present in the chamber after the incident. The site has been made safe and an investigation launched to determine how the incident occurred and identify corrective actions to prevent recurrence.



## Immediate Actions Required

### Managers

- Ensure your teams are briefed on this Safety Alert within 48 hours (or sooner).
- Review and action any Safeguard hazard reports for unsafe chamber lids and decking in your area of responsibility.
- Consider routine proactive inspections to help ensure chamber and decking safety.
- Raise the placing of inspection chambers on walkways with Asset Management to design out the risk.
- Review the security of remote sites to help prevent unauthorised access.

### Colleagues

- Consider chamber and decking hazards in your PoWRA. Look for decay, ill-fitting lids, damage, missing clips, etc.
- Use designated walkways where available and avoid walking on chamber covers.
- Report any chamber lids or decking that appears unsafe and ensure mitigation is put in place to prevent access.
- Ensure chamber covers and decking are replaced after work and the area is left safe.
- Ensure that your lone worker device is in use whenever you are lone working.
- Immediately ring 999 for emergency assistance if you or a colleague become stuck or incapacitated.

## Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please consult with your Line Manager or Safety Advisor in the first instance.

If your questions are still unresolved, please email:

**[yw.health.and.safety@yorkshirewater.co.uk](mailto:yw.health.and.safety@yorkshirewater.co.uk)**

The person who delivers this SA to their team should now record its completion using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/WUhQL67c0i>, or the QR code (scan it with your work mobile phone). If you are asked for log in details, use your short email address, e.g., [bloggsj@yw.co.uk](mailto:bloggsj@yw.co.uk) and the password you use to log into your work computer.

