

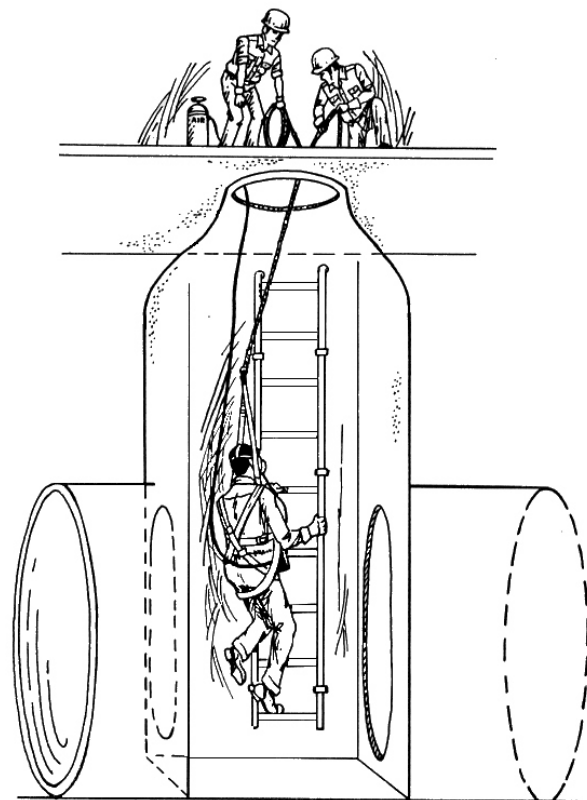


Confined entry specialists and certified instructors

**SAFETY \* FIRE \* SEWER**

**800-362-0240**

# WHY YOU NEED GAS PROTECTION SEWERS AND PITS CAN BE DEADLY!



Before entering any confined space, ask yourself:

- \* Has organic matter used up all oxygen?
- \* Has fermentation produced suffocating carbon dioxide?
- \* Has decomposition produced an explosive mixture?
- \* Has a chemical reaction created dangerous hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide or other toxic substances?

## TEST FOR THESE CONDITIONS

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO  
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE

## Entering Manholes, Sewers, Conduits, Underground Chambers Or Other Confined Spaces.

Do not enter confined spaces if work can be done on top or outside.

Check for combustible atmosphere first.

Remove manhole covers or entry doors and air the space as long as possible.

Blank-off inlet and outlet lines whenever possible; lock all valves in the closed position and all switches off.

Purge the space by blowing air at a rate sufficient to minimize the explosiveness and/or exposure to hazards.

Test for combustible gasses, oxygen-deficient atmosphere (carbon dioxide), carbon monoxide and other suspected gases (exposure to some gases may result in your inability to smell).

**Warning - Some vapors or gases, such as hydrogen cyanide, can be absorbed through the skin, so complete body protection may be required.**

Always wear a harness and lifeline when entering a manhole, sewer or inadequately ventilated confined space. At least two persons capable of lifting the individual entering the confined space should be on the outside.

Continue to test the air inside the space and make sure that all electrical equipment is explosion proof.

If the inside atmosphere is classified as dangerous or potentially dangerous, wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved air line and/or self-contained breathing apparatus in addition to a harness and lifeline. (A qualified person should be responsible for proper respirator selection.)

*Always perform the preceding steps each day before entering a manhole, sewer, conduit or other confined space and keep records of the atmosphere tests and the persons entering the space.*

For complete confined space entry information for your specific job, call the Division of Safety and Hygiene Industrial Hygiene and Engineering Section.