
NIOSH ALERT

WARNING!

Many farm workers die in manure pits!

Do not enter a manure pit unless absolutely necessary! Prevent fatalities by taking the following precautions:

1. Post hazard signs at all openings of all manure pits.
2. Provide powered, continuous, fresh-air ventilation with explosion-proof equipment before entering a manure pit.
3. Always test the atmosphere inside a manure pit before entering to ensure that the concentration of oxygen is adequate and that a toxic or explosive atmosphere does not exist.
4. Make sure that someone maintains constant contact from outside the pit and can lift you to safety with mechanical equipment (winch, hoist, or pulley) in case of emergency.
5. Always wear a harness or safety belt with a lifeline secured to the mechanical equipment outside the manure pit.
6. Do not enter the pit to attempt a rescue without proper respiratory protection (positive-pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus). Instead, call the fire department or rescue squad.
7. Fit all openings to manure pits with substantial metal grill covers to prevent falls or other accidental entries.

For additional information, see the NIOSH Alert on manure pits [DHHS (NIOSH) 90-103], or call 1-800-35-NIOSH

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



Please tear out and post.

Distribute copies to workers.