

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Fell into open manhole

DATE: 19 June 2002

WHAT HAPPENED: Worker slipped and fell into manhole while pulling cable.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Unbarricaded open manhole
- Worker was not paying attention to hazards at jobsite

RESULTS: Bruises to right arm and shoulder

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Employees should pay close attention to their surrounding when walking backwards.**

01.A.03 Each individual employee is responsible for complying with applicable safety requirements, wearing prescribed safety equipment, and preventing avoidable accidents.

- **Contractor shall ensure all open manholes are clearly identified.**

11.I.01 Warning signs and rigid barricades shall be promptly placed when covers of manholes, hand holes, or vaults are removed.