

FIRST AID RESCUE OF EMPLOYEE FROM MANHOLE

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the practices to be followed in rescuing from a manhole an employee who has been overcome by gas or from lack of oxygen. The nature of the hazards concerned makes it desirable to effect the rescue with all possible speed, provided, of course, that the necessary precautions are taken to safeguard those attempting the rescue.

2. RESCUING EMPLOYEE FROM MANHOLE

2.01 **A RESCUE SHOULD NEVER BE ATTEMPTED UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PERSON is present to assist the rescuer.** This assistant should stay on the ground, to help remove the injured person from the manhole and to raise the rescuer should this become necessary.

2.02 A handline such as the standard aerial handline or a rope approximately 1/2 inch in diameter in good condition should be available for use in making a rescue. (See Section 081-510-011 for care and inspection of manila rope.) The length of rope should be twice the depth of the manhole plus about 15 feet. A rope of this length is required to provide for tying one end of it around the body of the rescuer, the other end about the body of the victim and a loop around the assistant.

2.03 Before entering the manhole to make rescue, the rescuer should pass one end of rope twice around his own body, under the arms. Tie it in a single bowline at the front, then turn the knot to the back of the body as shown in Fig. 1. If another person, familiar with tying knots, is present, he may, of course, tie the knot at the back. (See Section 081-510-201 for details of tying a single bowline.)

2.04 Making Rescue.

(1) The assistant should face the manhole and grasp the rope at about its midpoint, passing it around his body

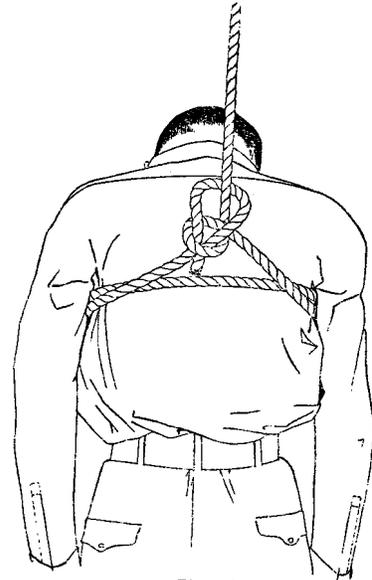


Fig. 1

and holding it across his back at waist level. He should stand close to the manhole opening with his feet braced, so that any sudden pull will not cause him to lose his hold on the rope nor fall into the manhole.

(2) The rescuer should carry the free end of the rope into the manhole and fasten the free end of rope around the injured person under the arms. If conditions permit, the single bowline shown above should be used. Otherwise, any secure knot may be tied.

(3) The rescuer should then climb out of manhole as soon as possible.

(4) With the help of the assistant, raise the injured person from the manhole.

(5) Start artificial respiration and follow other first aid practices.