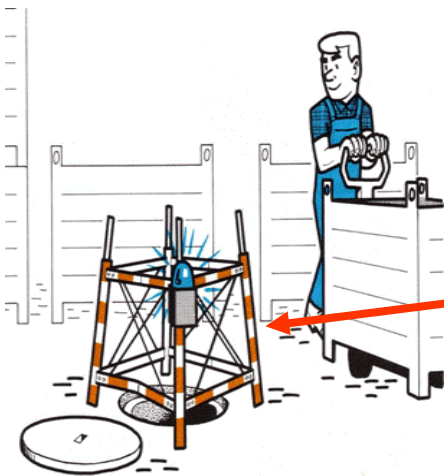


Working in pits and holes

Working around and in a pit or hole IS 'working at height' No difference but access and exit at the top

Prevention and collective protection:



At the top floor and every platform:

- Guardrails: must be resistant (supporting a force of at least 100 kg)
 - top rail not less than 1,1 m
 - mid rail installed at a height approximately midway between the top guardrail and the platform surface
 - toe-boards for protection against falling objects
- Temporary access by removing a plate = temporary protection and warning posts, and a watcher

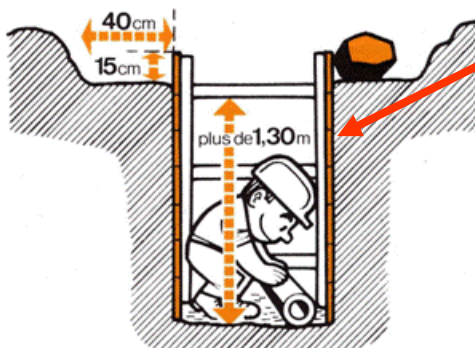
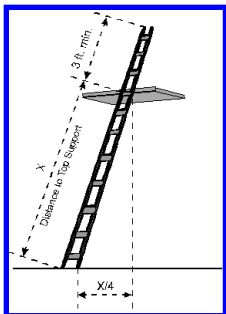


Safety lanyard attached to the ladder, and too long.

Ladder inside the bunker "fastened" by passing a pipe under a bar.

Access into the pit:

- There must be a safe way to get in and out of the pit such as fixed ladders or stairs
- Mind if the pit is a confined space
- You have collective protection. Check if any damage:
 - ladders: check bars and cage
 - stairs: check steps and handrails
- and/or**
- You need personal protection. Check if any damage:
 - harness
 - rope (incl. adequate length)
 - anchorage point

















- Pit open by digging = protect against entrapment

In addition:

- See other pages related to Working at Height: « ladder », « anchorage », « personal protection »...
- See pages related to confined spaces

Required checklist

- ☆   A dedicated risk assessment is performed before entering a pit: type of access and escape, fall hazard, hazard of falling object in the work area, weather (wind, rain, snow, ice...), electric hazard, atmosphere hazards (toxic or inflammable gas, lack of oxygen)...
HIRA helps defining adequate protections (collective and personal), the risk monitoring and the rescue measures.
- ☆   Only designated people are allowed to go in the pit; these persons have been informed and trained about the risks.
- ☆   It is forbidden to get in/out a pit without using the designed access.
- ☆   Guardrails (fixed or temporary) are checked and functional.
- ☆   Access ladder (and cage) or stairs is checked and functional.
- ☆   PPE (incl. full-body harness, lanyard - drop line, and anchorage point) are checked and functional.
- ☆   If pit is outdoor, work must be stopped in case of bad weather conditions (strong wind/rain, ice, snow...).

*Is it **Yes** or is it **No**, or is it defined **Not Applicable** by the HIRA?
If any '**No**', don't start the operation until preparation is completed. And if operation is ongoing, stop it safely and improve risk control to safe conditions.*

Never leave a pit entry open without strong guardrails or without a cover which fits to local traffic.

This document has to be used for help before starting the work or performing a SFA.