

WASTEWATER

Activity 8

What's in a wastewater manhole?

A wastewater manhole contains wastewater and LOT'S of gas. When wastewater travels through the pipes it breaks down and creates a gas called **hydrogen sulphide**, which is *very* dangerous for humans to breathe – not to mention stinky!

When workers go down into a manhole, they have to use a **gas meter** to show how much **hydrogen sulphide** is in the manhole. If there is too much, they have to get out – fast!



This **gas meter** reads how much hydrogen sulphide, oxygen and various other gases there are in the manhole. This tells the workers when the air becomes too unsafe to breathe

In groups or as a class, discuss the following questions:

1. Why would workers need to go down into a manhole?
2. As well as gas meters, what other equipment would workers need to keep safe down a manhole?
3. Why is it important to have holes in manhole lids?