

# SAFELY WORKING AROUND MANURE PITS

Despite the growing efforts to create more health and safety awareness in the farming community, fatalities due to manure pit accidents are still reported. The causes include the need to enter manure storage, highly varied toxicity levels from manure pits, lack of information on why and when dangerous conditions exist, and practical reliable sensors to detect toxic gas conditions. When working around manure pits, please treat them like any other type of permit required confined space.

- All manure pits should be ventilated with forced ventilation.
- The atmosphere within the pit should be tested before entry.
- A standby person should be in constant contact and ready to lift a worker to safety with mechanical lifting equipment.
- Anyone entering a manure pit should wear a safety belt or harness with a lifeline tied to the mechanical lifting equipment.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn.

