

Worker dies after getting into manhole



• [Sumit Bhattacharjee](#)

A private sanitary worker died after he allegedly inhaled poisonous gases while working in a manhole in Siripuram area under III Town Police station limits here on Friday.

According to the SHO of Three Town Police station, Venkat Rao there was a block in the pipelines inside HSBC campus and the registered GVMC contractor one Papa Rao was called to take up the work of clearing the blockage.

The contractor sent one Nagabhushan, believed to be the brother of Papa Rao, to inspect the blockage, along with three workers.

The workers after inspecting the drainage inside HSBC said that there might be some blockage in the main under ground sewage system.

The workers then opened a manhole and two of them went inside. While one surfaced after a few minutes, the other did not.

Procedures not followed

A traffic police constable V. Srinivas who was present at the spot along with the other workers tried their best to pull him out but in vain.

In the meanwhile, 108 ambulance service along with the fire services personnel reached the spot and pulled him out but he was already dead by that time.

The deceased was identified as D. Appalakonda (35), resident of Pineapple Colony in the city and native of Vizianagaram district.

According to the Commissioner of GVMC, Pravin Kumar no complaint was lodged by HSBC and neither there was any overflow of manholes.

The contractor was called by the HSBC directly and the work was assigned to them by HSBC, probably due to the urgency.

In normal circumstances, all sewage related problems are handled only by the GVMC. In this case, Friday was a holiday due to Sri Ram Navami and no sewage work is taken up after 5 p.m. The incident occurred around 5 p.m.

“Probably, the contractor would have taken up the work for earning some extra money from HSBC,” said sources in GVMC.

Moreover, the standard operating procedures were not followed by the contractor.

As per the SOP, before getting into a manhole, two or three manholes in the same line are kept open for about an hour to clear the poisonous gases. Masks, helmets and torches are part of the workers' gear.

In this case, neither the manholes were kept open to allow the gases to clear out and neither the gear was worn by the workers, said Mr. Pravin. “We are connecting the chain of events to ascertain how it happened and are also examining the CC TV footage that apparently captured the event,” said Mr. Pravin to The Hindu.

A case has been registered and the police are investigating the case.