

**FY 2021-2022 Virginia Beach Budget  
Response to Council Questions**

**Question Number:** 96

**Question:** Can you please share the details of the incident when a man fell down a man hole and was significantly hurt? How did the City, department handle this matter?

**Date Requested:** 4/27/21

**Requested By:** Councilmember Wooten

**Department:** Public Utilities / Public Works

**Response:** We believe this incident is one that occurred in Public Utilities. An employee in our Sewer Pump Stations bureau fell through a floor hatch that had been opened by the crew to pass tools down below for the purpose of working on a pump. The employee involved in the accident fell through the open hatch door after accessing a control panel located near the hatch, and stepping back into the opening. The employee was taken to the hospital and has been out recovering from his injuries. He is being compensated through workman's compensation as is standard for a job-related injury. There was some initial confusion/concern with respect to the employee who thought he would be receiving a portion of his regular income, and that he would not be making enough money to pay for his portion of his medical insurance. It was explained to him that under the workman's compensation procedures, that he would not be having his medical insurance premium deducted from his pay, and that he would need to make arrangements to pay the employee premium while on workmen's compensation. Initially, he did not understand that he would be receiving more money in his workmen's compensation paycheck (because of the fact that his medical insurance premium would not be automatically deducted). This was explained to the employee personally, and he understood and was appreciative of the clarification. The employee may have had conversations with co-workers to express his concerns over his initial misunderstanding or confusion, but any allegation that the employee has not been compensated is untrue.