

## Boy killed after falling into manhole with cover removed

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**IPOH:** The cover of a manhole where a three-year-old boy fell to his death here was believed to have been opened a day before by children who were playing at the site, says Ipoh OCPD Asst Comm'r A. Asmadi Abdul Aziz.

He added that investigations revealed the manhole, located at the police quarters in Pasir Puteh, was closed prior to the incident. A group of children allegedly opened its cover on Monday evening.

ACP Asmadi said the children had failed to close the manhole which led to the victim, Anas Hadif Ahmad Hafiz, falling into it. He was there playing with his two older brothers yesterday morning.

"This is a very unfortunate incident as the manhole was usually closed," he said at the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital's forensic department here yesterday.

In the 8am incident, the victim's body was found inside the sewerage manhole.

A spokesman from the Perak Fire and Rescue Department said firemen from the Pasir Puteh station rushed to the scene when they received a distress call at 8.16am.

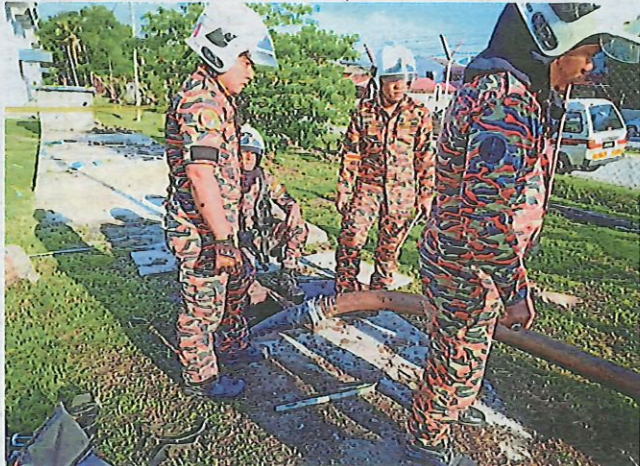
They had to use a pump to remove the sewage to recover the victim's body.

The boy's father, Lance-Corporal Ahmad Hafiz Mustafa, 32, said when one of his other sons was screaming for help, he thought he was involved in a road accident.

He said his son, the youngest of four siblings, was playing with his other two sons, aged seven and six, within the compound of the quarters.

"When I rushed down, I saw his slippers floating."

Ahmad Hafiz said he was just transferred to the quarters a month ago when he started duties at the Pasir Puteh station.



**Danger below:** Firemen retrieving the body of the boy who fell into the manhole at the Pasir Puteh police headquarters.