



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Health District Environmental Health Directors  
Health District Environmental Health Supervisors  
Health District Environmental Health Program Managers  
DEQ Wastewater Program Staff – State Office  
DEQ Regional Office Administrators  
DEQ Regional Office Engineering Managers

FROM: Peter Adams, On-Site Wastewater Coordinator  
DEQ Wastewater Compliance Bureau

DATE: July 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Septic Tank Manholes

This memorandum clarifies the requirement for septic tank manholes to extend to ground surface, as referenced in IDAPA 58.01.03.007.14.

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IDAPA 58.01.03.007.14 states “Manholes must extend to the finished grade. Access to each septic tank or compartment must be provided by a manhole twenty (20) inches in minimum dimension or a removable cover of equivalent size. Each [concrete]<sup>1</sup> manhole cover must be provided with a corrosion resistant strap or handle to facilitate removal.”

For all tanks, a manhole must extend to ground surface from the manhole above the inlet. Any compartment that contains a pump, effluent filter, or other wastewater treatment component must also include a manhole extending to ground surface.

For multiple tanks in series, a manhole must extend to ground surface from the manhole above the inlet of each tank. Any compartment in the series of tanks that contains a pump, effluent filter, or other wastewater treatment component must also include a manhole extending to ground surface.

If a riser is used to extend a manhole to finished grade, that manhole does not require a manhole cover at the tank lid because the riser must have its own secured cover at the finished grade. A composite, FRP, or similar cover must be locked or secured to the riser with screws. The riser must be secured to the tank lid.

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<sup>1</sup> Inserted for clarity. Composite, fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP), or similar manhole covers must be secured with screws or in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.