

Fecha 22.03.2009	Sección Primera	Página 2
---------------------	--------------------	-------------

twominutes

Sewage duct maintenance turns deadly in Hidalgo

At least six farmers died after being intoxicated by methane gases when they tried to clean out a sewage duct in the state of Hidalgo, just north of Mexico City, state officials said Saturday.

Three other people were injured and at least two more were missing after the farmers descended 28 meters underground without appropriate gear, Efe reported.

The National Water Commission, or **Conagua**, had reportedly allowed the farmers in the town of Atotonilco de Tula access to water from the duct in exchange for maintenance on the sewage line, which locals said had been carried out before with no problem.

But on Saturday morning three men overcome by the gases began shouting for help. Farmers attempting to rescue them were soon trapped as well. The state will investigate the incident, El Universal reported.

THE NEWS

