

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 23

No. 36

Week of 9/5/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

EXCAVATIONS

Trenching and excavating accidents cause far too many injuries and deaths on construction sites each year. Following the correct procedures can prevent most of these accidents. Before you begin digging, step back and think for a moment. Determine what you will need to do to complete the job safely. There is no reason why anyone should die or be injured in a trenching accident.

If you are involved in excavation work, your life is on the line. Make sure the following precautions have been taken.

- Have utility companies locate and mark any underground installations that could be encountered.
- If the excavation is near a roadway, be certain traffic plans have been made and barricades are in place.
- Check to see if nearby traffic, trains, or equipment might cause vibrations that could destabilize the walls of the trench.
- Unless you are excavating entirely in stable rock or are digging less than five feet deep, prevent wall cave-ins by using a shoring system, ground sloping, or a trench box or shield.
- If the excavation is twenty feet or more in depth, a registered professional engineer must design the protective systems.
- Install stop logs or barricades if mobile equipment is being used adjacent to the trench.
- Store all excavated and other materials at least two feet from the edges of the excavation.
- If the excavation is four feet or more in depth, place ladders or ramps at twenty-five foot intervals.
- If you are required to enter an excavation or hole that is deep or confined, use a harness with a lifeline.

OSHA requires that a competent person inspect excavations, adjacent areas, and protective systems daily and before each shift. This person must look for evidence of situations that could result in possible cave-ins, hazardous atmospheres, failure of protective systems, or any other dangerous conditions. An inspection is also required after every rainstorm and after any other occurrence that might increase hazards.

Be sure you understand the hazards of excavation work. Follow all safety procedures and be alert for any changing conditions that could result in a cave-in. See 29 CFR 1926.650 - .652 (Subpart P) for more information.

SAFETY REMINDER

Don't bury yourself in your work!

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____