

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 22 No. 47 Week of 11/25/24

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Underground construction brings with it special risks, and makes many common construction hazards worse. The regulations governing underground construction apply to underground tunnels, shafts, chambers, and passageways; as well as cut-and-cover excavations which are connected to underground construction operations and have hazards similar to those found in underground construction. It is important for your safety, and the safety of everyone in your crew, that you understand underground construction hazards and know how to avoid them.

We cannot cover underground construction safety completely in this safety meeting. But here is a list of the topics for which OSHA requires safety training: air monitoring, ventilation, illumination, communications, flood control, personal protective equipment, mechanical equipment, explosives, fire prevention and protection, and emergency procedures including evacuation plans and check-in/check-out systems. Any time you are involved in underground construction work, you must know how to deal with the hazards of working underground. If you have **any** questions, ask your supervisor immediately.

One of the most important safety issues in underground construction is air quality. To breathe you need oxygen; at normal pressure, the oxygen content of the air must be between 19.5% and 22%. OSHA mandates that a competent person be assigned to perform all air monitoring and testing. The competent person must determine what types of, and how frequently air testing must be done. Records of all testing must be available at the surface.

Access to all underground construction must be controlled to prevent unauthorized entry, either by the public, including children, or by unauthorized construction workers. Unused openings must be covered or secured, and marked with language such as "KEEP OUT". A check-in/check-out system should be used to limit access to those authorized to enter the area. This system allows above-ground personnel to know the number of people underground and their identities in case an emergency occurs.

Construction work is dangerous, and underground construction is more dangerous; but if you learn about the hazards and think before you act, you can prevent accidents and injuries. For more information see 29 CFR 1926.800.

SAFETY REMINDER

**When you're underground, it's dark as night.
Don't go down without enough light.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____