

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

 SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 45 Vol. 21 Week of 11/6/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

TRENCHING & EXCAVATION

Trenching accidents claim the lives of as many as 200 construction workers each year. Many of these tragedies are unnecessary and could be prevented if employees followed well-established safe practices. Today we'll discuss cave-ins, which are some of the most common, and most serious, excavating accidents. We will also briefly discuss some other hazards related to trenching and excavating.

Preventing cave-in accidents can be accomplished in one of three ways: 1) slope or bench the walls of the trench, 2) install shoring to stabilize and reinforce the trench walls, or 3) use a trench box or shield. Unless you are excavating entirely in stable rock or are digging less than five feet deep, OSHA regulations require the use of one of these protective systems:

A competent person must inspect the excavation and all adjacent areas on a daily basis for potential causes of cave-ins, for the failure or potential failure of protective systems and equipment, for unsafe atmospheres, or for other hazardous conditions. Employees should not be permitted to work in excavations where water has accumulated or is accumulating unless adequate precautions have been taken.

Here are some other hazards to consider whenever you work in or near excavations. Vibration from nearby traffic, trains, or construction equipment can destabilize trench walls. Those vibrations can also cause materials piled or stacked near the edge to shift, and slide into the trench. Changing weather conditions can create additional trenching hazards — be aware of rain, flash flood conditions, and freeze and thaw cycles which can loosen excavation walls.

Give a competent person inspect the excavation and evaluate the soil type. Check for underground utilities, pipelines, and other structures. Make sure that your excavation work doesn't threaten nearby buildings or other structures.

Trenching and excavation work can be completed without incident but only when the entire team relentlessly focuses on safety. Make safety your number one priority or the next excavation you're in could be your grave.

SAFETY REMINDER

Additional information can be found in
29 CFR 1926.650 - .652, Subpart P, of the OSHA regulations.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____