



EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN FOR TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION

INTRODUCTION

1. Review any incidents or “near misses” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOL BOX SAFETY TALK

Trench collapses cause dozens of fatalities and hundreds of injuries each year. Because trench collapse rescues are technical and demanding, it’s essential to have an Emergency Response Plan in place before an emergency occurs. Quick and efficient response can save lives. Follow these procedures for emergency preparation:

- Before beginning work, look at the specific area where you are digging.
 - What is around you that could cause a collapse?
 - Is the soil dry, or is there water in the bottom of the trench?
 - Is there a safe way to get in and out quickly, such as ladders every 25 feet?
 - Are there any buried utility lines that you could come in contact with?
 - Is there anything that could make the air bad? Exhaust from equipment, spilled fuel, decayed plants or animals?
- Notify all personnel involved with the project of the emergency response procedures.
- Include at a minimum the following items: procedures for notification of emergency response agencies; responsibilities of individuals on the site; posting of local emergency response agencies; notification of these agencies of the scheduled work prior to commencement; and identification of the nearest accessible telephone, radio, or other methods of communication.
- Where hazardous atmospheric conditions exist or could develop during the course of the work in the excavation, keep emergency rescue equipment such as a safety harness and line or basket stretcher readily available to personnel working at the excavation site.
- If you are about to be buried in a cave-in, yell to get attention. Cover your face with your arms. Do not struggle to free yourself, just wait calmly for rescue.
- If you are watching someone being buried in a cave-in, do not attempt to rescue them yourself. Never enter the excavation. Follow emergency procedures designated for your work site.
- Review the emergency plan. Make sure new hires and new workers to the site are aware of the emergency response plan Emergency Response Plan