



FALL HAZARDS IN TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION: Why We Need Barricades

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

Why should we be concerned with fall protections around an excavation sites?

An open trench can be a fall hazard not only to the workers on the site, but also to the public. Someone could trip, lose their footing, or just walk too close to the edge and fall in.

In many instances, barricades and/ or warnings are required to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry. Here are some “barricade basics” to help ensure a safe excavation site for everyone:

- Before we begin, make sure warning signs are posted around the area. Install fences wherever possible to protect walkways and keep unauthorized people out of the area.
- Install barricades, guardrails, or fences around excavations adjacent to walkways, roads, paths or other traffic areas.
- If an excavation must be crossed, provide an adequate walkway with guardrails over the area.
- There may be underground utilities in the area, these must also be protected with barricades or other means.
- Install a barricade or fence on any excavation left unattended to protect against accidental entry from pedestrians. If the excavation is in a remote location where visitation by residents is unlikely, a barricade of posts and warning tape, with a sign, is sufficient. If the excavation is in a traveled area, however, a physical barrier such as a fence must isolate it.
- Place barricades or other devices to guide pedestrians and vehicles around the area.
- When mobile equipment is used in the area, use a spotter or other means of keeping the equipment away from the edge. This could be a mechanical device or even a stop log or barrier.