



SAFETY TALK

Trenching safety

Trenching is a common activity in the heavy construction industry. There is greater risk of injury or death while working in or near a trench without proper protections in place.

What's the danger?

- Utility line strike injuring workers or damaging equipment
- Lack of access or egress in an emergency situation
- Materials falling onto workers or workers falling into the trench
- Trench wall collapse, burying or injuring workers
- Excavator striking and injuring a worker
- Slips, trips, or falls while entering/exiting a trench

Protect yourself

- Ensure all utility lines are located before breaking ground
- Ensure ladders are placed no more than 3 metres away from workers in a trench at all times and extend at least 1 metre above the trench
- Keep tools, equipment and materials a safe distance from the trench's edge (at least 1 metre) and have barricades to prevent workers falling into the trench
- Ensure trench walls are stable through sloping, shoring, using a trench box or an engineer-approved support structure
- Know the swing zone of any excavator in use and communicate with the operator before entering a trench
- Be patient, use 3-point-contact and wear appropriate PPE at all times

Print and review this talk with your staff, sign off and file for COR™ / SECOR audit purposes.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Performed by: _____

Location: _____

Concerns:

Corrective Actions:

Employee Name:

Employee Signature:

