



Introduction

Excavation is among the most dangerous work in construction due to the risk of cave-ins. In fact, excavation workers are 15 times more likely to be killed on the job than all other forms of industrial activity. The protective measures needed to prevent deaths in excavations are practical and easily verified by a competent person. Using OSHA's required protective measures will prevent nearly every excavation related death.

Planning is the key to safe excavation work, from ordering utility locates, to providing shoring or shielding equipment, to traffic control planning, there is no substitute for preparation. The competent person is responsible for managing safety on the excavation site, and they must have both the experience to anticipate dangerous conditions, and the authority to quickly fix them. Excavation workers also need to know the dangers of their work, and how to protect themselves.

When the excavation is in progress, and before anyone enters the excavation, the competent person must complete an inspection to ensure the safety of the workers entering. The purpose of this App is to provide a tool for the competent person to carry out this task efficiently. This app allows the results of each inspection checklist to be automatically emailed to management for the record, reducing the administrative workload of paper checklists.

We hope you find this tool valuable, and we welcome your feedback!

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Settings

Competent Person

Project Name

Approver Name

Approver e-mail address

Daily Inspection Checklist for Trenching/Excavation Sites

Competent Person:

Project:

Trench Location/Station and Dimensions:

Utilities

✓ N/A

- 1. Utility locates contacted at least 2 working days prior to start of digging, and appropriately marked and identified
- 2. Underground installations have been protected, supported, or removed when the excavation is open
- 3. Surface encumbrances such as utilities, utility poles, foundations, transformer vaults or other structures are supported or removed
- 4. Equipment operator(s) is aware of energized overhead uninsulated powerlines and required approach distances (10' minimum for lines <50kV; 20' minimum unknown Voltage; with a dedicated spotter)

Excavation / Trench

✓ N/A

- 1. Soil classified using 1 visual and 1 manual method, or default Type C
- 2. Employees are protected from loose rock or soil
- 3. All employees are wearing proper PPE
- 4. Spoils, materials, and equipment are set back at least 2' from the edge of excavation

Excavation / Trench✓ **N/A**

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- 2. Employees are protected from loose rock or soil
- 3. All employees are wearing proper PPE
- 4. Spoils, materials, and equipment are set back at least 2' from the edge of excavation
- 5. The work area has been identified using barricades, fencing, or some other physical barrier
- 6. Traffic control plan has been completed and implemented
- 7. High visible clothing is worn by all employees exposed to vehicular traffic
- 8. Excavations 6' or deeper with walkways or bridges are equipped with guardrails
- 9. Employees are prohibited from working or walking under suspended loads
- 10. Employees are prohibited from working on faces of sloped / benched excavations above other employees
- 11. A warning system has been established and used when mobile equipment is operating near the edge of the excavation
- 12. A means of egress (e.g. ladders, steps, ramps) has been provided so that no employee must travel further than 25'
- 13. If ladders are used for egress, they are secured and extend at least 3' above the top of the excavation
- 14. If wood ramps are used for egress, they are constructed of uniform material thickness and cleated together at the bottom
- 15. All employees entering the trench have documented training on requirements for excavation / trenching and protective measures

Wet Conditions

Wet Conditions

✓ **N/A**

- 1. Precautions have been taken to protect employees from hazards posed by water accumulation
- 2. When water removal equipment is in operation, it is being monitored by the Competent Person
- 3. Surface water is being collected or diverted
- 4. An inspection of the excavation, adjacent areas, and protective system is performed and documented after each rainstorm

Hazardous Atmosphere

✓ **N/A**

- 1. Where a hazardous atmosphere could reasonably exist, the atmosphere is being tested for low or high oxygen, hazardous vapors, and toxic gasses before employees enter the excavation
- 2. Emergency response equipment is readily available where a hazardous atmosphere could exist (e.g. retrieval unit)

Comments