

# CNV

CONTRACTOR NEWS & VIEWS



## SOUTHERN CONTRACTING 2017 SAFETY STAND DOWN



*Much More!*

JUNE | 2017

# Excavating to the Culture of Safety



Saturday morning in Escondido CA. and another Safety stand down is underway. There is always a feeling of excitement and energy at these events. People laughing and smiling and working together to reinforce the idea that working safe is important.

There is a phrase that has been used many times and is applicable here. “Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care”. It is obvious through events like this that management is looking to build that much sought after culture of safety. Today we have just a couple of hours to focus on what we can do to be safe in and around trenches and excavations.

## Good Planning before Excavation Begins

Many companies now employ some kind of analytical thinking method in the form of a written analysis. Jobsite Hazard Analysis or an Activity Hazard Analysis to name a few that are used in a methodical approach to identify the hazards and employ the correct safety measures to control them.

## Competent Person Training

The Competent Person for T&E work plays a crucial role in managing and implementing the control measures as outlined in a good plan. A properly trained Competent Person understands the work to be done, he / she is experienced in excavation work and knows how to keep the job safe for employees as well as be compliant with the OSHA excavation standard.



A well trained CP knows how to relate the standard to the work processes and can explain to anyone how the control measures he has implemented meet the standard. Perhaps the most overlooked quality of a good CP is his or her ability to successfully work with people and to manage difficult situations effectively.





## Shoring Systems / Engineering

The state of California and the Federal government both stipulate in their respective standards that any excavation 5' deep or greater must be protected by a shoring system. There are many choices available including but not limited to sloping or benching the soil, using aluminum hydraulic shoring jacks, using trench shields and manhole boxes, using a slide rail system or using beam and plate or beam and lagging, just to name some of the most common methods. All of these systems are engineered. The sloping and benching of soil according to the diagrams in Appendix B in the standard are engineered. There is tabulated data for all mechanical shoring systems that must be adhered to and available on site. Larger systems like beam and plate must have site specific engineering.

## 2017 Current Outlook

The year 2016 saw a doubling of trench collapse fatalities nationwide. In all cases a shoring system was not implemented or it was not used properly. Work processes such as installing pipe, working around utilities and duct banks must be reviewed to make sure workers are never exposed to potentially fatal outcomes. There

are resources available through your shoring supplier. The North American Excavation and Shoring Association or NAXSA has a LinkedIn group with some of the most knowledgeable minds available on the subject of excavation and shoring. <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/9446806/>

**Be Safe! Use shoring**

## Greg Shreenan Bio

*Greg is a Senior Shoring Consultant and Competent Person Trainer for Trenching and Excavation and Confined Spaces. He has been training for Industry trade groups like the AGC of San Diego, OTI, The military with NAVFAC, contractors, cities, water districts and fortune 500 companies all over southern California for 11 of his 14 years at Trench Shoring Company. He is available for consultation, free 1-2 hour speaking engagements or lunch and learns as well as Competent Person training.*

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