



CONSTRUCTION
SAFETY WEEK

TSU

**TRENCH SHORING
UNIVERSITY™**



NAXSA
North American
Excavation Shoring Association

*Trenching and Excavation
a
20/20 View*

*Conducted By:
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Sr. Shoring Consultant
NAXSA Training Committee Chair*



Presentation-30 min.

Q&A-15 min max

Please Text Your Questions in Chat to our
Moderator Billy McGinley
He will read questions to me at the end of the
presentation
Thank you



OPM Briefing

Other People's Mistakes

Using OSHA News Releases to understand the gravity of what we do...or don't do



OSHA News Release - Region 4

U.S. Department of Labor

July 15, 2020

**U.S. Department of Labor Cites Georgia Telecommunications Contractor
For Exposing Employees to Excavation Hazards After Fatal Incident**

The employee was fatally injured while performing fiber optic connections. OSHA initiated the inspection as a result of the incident and as part of the [National Emphasis Program on Trenching and Excavation](#)

OSHA [cited](#) the company for failing to train employees on how to recognize trench safety hazards, have a competent person conduct trench inspections, provide a safe means of egress from the excavation and prevent water accumulation inside the excavation. OSHA also cited the employer for allowing employees to work in the 10-foot excavation without shoring, sloping or shielding trench walls, and failing to report a fatality within eight hours, as required.

***National Emphasis
Program***

***Failure to Train Employees
how to recognize Trench
Safety Hazards***

***No Inspection by a
Competent Person***

***No Safe means of Access
and Egress***

***10' deep Excavation with
no Protection***

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OSHA News Release - Region 7

U.S. Department of Labor

June 29, 2020

U.S. Department of Labor Cites Missouri Contractor
After Employee Suffers Severe Injuries in Trench Collapse

ST. LOUIS, MO – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited [REDACTED] for violations of OSHA’s trenching and excavation standards after an employee suffered severe injuries when a 20-foot trench collapsed during excavation of Creve Coeur Sanitary Sewer Trunk in Creve Coeur, Missouri. OSHA cited the Pacific, Missouri-based company for three willful and four serious violations, and faces penalties of \$224,459. The agency has placed the company in the agency’s [Severe Violator Enforcement Program](#).

OSHA cited the company for failing to utilize adequate trench protective systems, permitting employees to ride in the bucket of hydraulic excavators, and allowing water to accumulate in the floor of the trench. OSHA also cited the employer for failing to provide a safe means of egress from the trench, protect workers from struck-by hazards, and place excavated soil piles an adequate distance from trench edges.

**3 Willful and 4 serious
\$224,459 in Fines**

**Company Placed in Severe
Violator Enforcement
Program**

**Failure to utilize adequate
trench protective systems**

**Permitting employees to
ride in the bucket of an
excavator**

**Accumulated Water
Safe Access and Egress
Protect from struck by
Spoil Pile too close**

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OSHA News Release - Region 4

U.S. Department of Labor

April 22, 2020

**U.S. Department of Labor Cites Florida Construction Contractor
For Exposing Employees to Cave-in and Other Hazards**

TAMPA, FL – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited ██████ Construction Company-Florida LLC for exposing employees to excavation hazards at worksites in Orlando and Winter Garden, Florida. The general contractor faces \$303,611 in penalties.

OSHA [cited](#) the, Florida-based contractor for exposing employees to cave-in and engulfment hazards by allowing them to work in unprotected excavations that also lacked safe means for employees to enter and exit the excavation. Other violations include using a trench shield with missing components, not ensuring employees used personal protective equipment, failing to perform testing to identify hazardous atmospheres and post traffic control signs, and not training flaggers.

*Cited for Exposing
Employees to Excavation
Hazards and fined
\$303,611*

*Exposed to engulfment
hazards due to unprotected
excavations*

*Lacked safe means to enter
and exit excavation*

*Trench Shield with missing
components*

*Lack of PPE
Failure to test to identify
Hazard Atmosphere*

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OSHA News Release - Region 4

U.S. Department of Labor

January 30, 2020

U.S. Department of Labor Cites Two Alabama Contractors
For Exposing Employees to Hazards After Fatal Trench Collapse

HOOVER, AL – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited two Alabama contractors – [REDACTED] – for exposing employees to excavation hazards after two workers suffered fatal injuries in a trench collapse on a residential project in Hoover, Alabama. The contractors face \$88,482 in penalties.

allowing employees to work in a trench without hard hats and cave-in protection. OSHA also cited the contractors for failing to train employees on excavation hazards, provide a safe entry and exit from the trench, place soil piles away from trench edges and ensure a competent person inspected the trench before allowing employees to enter.

*Double Fatality
Fined \$88,452
Work in a Trench w/o Hard Hats
Failure to Train employees on
Excavation Hazards
Provide Safe Entry and Exit
Spoil Pile too close to Trench Edges
Ensure Competent Person does Trench
Inspection before employees enter*

“Employers are legally required to slope, shore or shield trench walls to avoid a collapse, and must ensure that workers are properly trained and use approved equipment to prevent serious or fatal injuries,” said OSHA Birmingham Area Director Ramona Morris.

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OSHA News Release - Region 4

U.S. Department of Labor

January 16, 2020

U.S. Department of Labor Cites Plumbing Contractor for Exposing Employees to Hazards After Fatal Trench Collapse in Mississippi

TAYLOR, MS – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited [REDACTED] a commercial electrical and plumbing contractor based in Batesville, Mississippi – for exposing employees to excavation hazards after a worker suffered fatal injuries in a trench collapse at a Taylor, Mississippi, worksite. The contractor faces \$37,318 in penalties.

The employee was installing sewer pipe to a new concrete manhole when the collapse occurred. OSHA [cited](#) the company for allowing employees to work in a trench without hard hats and cave-in protection, and for not removing workers from a trench that showed signs of water intrusion and possible collapse.

Facility

Fined \$37,318

***Work in a Trench w/o Hard Hats
Failure to protect against Cave in***

***Failure to remove employees from a
trench that showed signs of water
intrusion***

"This tragedy could have been prevented if the employer had **followed the law** and sloped, shored or shielded the trench walls to prevent a collapse," said OSHA Area Director Courtney Bohannon, in Jackson, Mississippi. "Before allowing workers to enter a trench, employers are required to install proper safety measures."

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15 Total Fatalities as of September 14th

2020

January 9th Washington State, 24year old male died from a cave in while trying to rescue a partially buried worker

January 15, North Carolina, 42year old male dies in a trench wall collapse

January 24th, Mississippi, male worker dies of trench collapse from water intrusion.

January 28th, New York, two males ages 46 and 57 died when they were buried with 5-7 feet of mud and sand.

February 12, Texas, 32year old male dies from a trench wall collapse

February 17, Ohio, 34year old male trench wall collapse

February 27, New Jersey, 35year old male. Buried to his chest. Trapped 5 hours before being crushed to death

March, Indiana, Male worker dies when gravel collapses on him from above and buries him. He was working inside a trench shield. The gravel pile was apparently too close to the edge of the trench.

May, Mississippi, 2 males were killed by cave in installing sewer.

July, Phoenix Arizona, 2 males 32 and 33 years old killed from trench cave in. Police stated they are leading the death investigation together with OSHA

August, Michigan, Worker dies from trench Collapse about 12 feet deep.

Sept 3, Texas. Worker crushed to death when trench wall collapsed against him and a concrete culvert.

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OSHA Raises Fines for Violations Jan 15th 2020

OSHA Penalties

Below are the maximum penalty amounts, with the annual adjustment for inflation, that may be assessed after Jan. 15, 2020. (See [OSHA Memo, Jan 10, 2020](#)).

Type of Violation	Penalty
Serious Other-Than-Serious Posting Requirements	\$13,494 per violation
Failure to Abate	\$13,494 per day beyond the abatement date
Willful or Repeated	\$134,937 per violation

OSHA Excavation Standards 1926 Subpart P Are:

Laws not guidelines or best practices, You can be fined and imprisoned based on these laws. Manslaughter charges have recently been handed down to two different owners in Washington and Massachusetts from jobsite trench collapse fatalities in 2019

Necessary to keep all of us from rationalizing that its ok to expose fellow human beings to potentially fatal hazards in the name of production or profit.

Foundational In building a safety program that is geared for company growth and profit. It is now universally understood that unless you can control worker safety on your job you will not compete well with your peers who have created a culture of safety based on the standards.



Compliance Officer Quotes

"Excavation collapses are among the most dangerous hazards in the workplace. Employers must be vigilant in identifying and mitigating these hazards," said OSHA Savannah Area Office Director Margo Westmoreland.

"Training employees to recognize and control hazards can minimize serious and fatal injuries. OSHA encourages employers to contact the agency for compliance assistance with trenching and excavation requirements."

"A trench collapse can happen in seconds and is preventable. **Employers are legally obligated** to ensure adequate protections are in place to prevent serious or fatal injuries," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt.

"Compliance with trenching and excavation regulations is not optional," said OSHA Omaha Area Office Director Jeff Funke. **"Employers are legally required** to use appropriate protective systems to ensure that workers are not injured."

General Duty Clause and Resources

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more **information, visit** <https://www.osha.gov>.

OSHA recently updated the [National Emphasis Program](#) on preventing injuries related to trenching and excavation collapses. OSHA's [trenching and excavation](#) webpage provides additional information on trenching hazards and solutions, including a [trenching operations QuickCard](#) and a ["Protect Workers in Trenches"](#) poster.

Valuable Safety Links and Resources

Informative Webinar, “Increasing Awareness of Factors that Influence Trench Safety:. Conducted May 28th CPWR, Scott Ketcham Director of OSHA Construction, Joe Wise United Rentals Trench Safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uegUCd7gCJo&feature=youtu.be>

CPWR In Depth Study on how to reduce Trenching and Excavation Fatalities completed March 2019. PDF available for download. Highly recommended reading. In depth study on attitudes and causal factors of employees with respect to excavation safety

<https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/SS2019-Trenching-Fatalities-Causes-and-Reduction.pdf>

Death by Trench Published by Equipment World. Contact information necessary for access to pdf. Article can be read online. Very well written and informative

<https://www.equipmentworld.com/special-report-death-by-trench/>

Link to register for the Thursday September 17th Presentation by TSU
“How to make yourself 10’ Tall and Bulletproof”

<https://www.trenchshoring.com/training>



How to Make yourself 10' Tall and Bulletproof

Get the Excavation Standard into the dirt on the job

Master the Fundamentals of Compliance on the jobsite

Find the right people and find the right training for the Competent Person position

Develop a repeatable system based on the fundamentals

Integrate the front end, estimating and bidding, with the realities of subpart P compliance in the field. Begin with the end in mind. How do we bid “Compliant Work”.

Thursday September 17th

7:30 am PST

Click on the link to register

<https://www.trenchshoring.com/training>





Q & A



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Passion-People-Purpose

