

Good Dirt !

Trenching and Excavation Safety



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ON THE SPOT UTILITY RESOURCES LLC

Objectives

- Soil mechanics and classification
- Protective systems
- Other specific requirements of the excavation standard



Trenching Fatalities

♦22 fatalities first 6 months of 2022 – more than all of 2021

July 2022 -- OSHA launched enhanced enforcement initiatives to protect workers from hazards in trenching/excavation which includes

- -- more trenching inspections
- -- evaluation of penalties related to trenching
- -- criminal referrals to state or federal prosecutors

2021

<u>Federal</u> 1053 citations --- over 6.1 million \$ in fines



Center for Construction Research and Training and United Rentals – 2019 Trench Survey

Which of the following do you believe are the biggest contributors to trench incidents or collapses?

- Lack of training on trench safety (i.e., inspections, hazards) --- 67%
- Trying to stay on schedule/production --- 66%
- Indifference (i.e., it won't happen on my watch --- 58%
- Lack of knowledge of the OSHA 1926.650 trenching and excavation standard (i.e., requirements, soil analysis, and protective system solutions) 52.2%
- Tight budgets (i.e., didn't estimate into job costs) --- 34.5%
- Language barriers --- 21.3%





Excavation – any man-made cut, cavity, trench, or depression in the earths surface formed by earth removal





Trench – narrow excavation made below the surface of the ground. Generally, depth is greater than the width but the width is not greater than 15 feet.





What is soil ?

- Mixture of small particles of gravels, sand, clay, silt, dirt
- Water
- Air
- Organic material (dead leaves and plants – animals) humus





Soil strength is dependent upon:

- Type of soil
- Amount of moisture in the soil
- Whether the soil has been previously disturbed.
- Surcharge loads



COHESIVE SOIL

- Soil with a high clay content which has cohesive strength
- It does not crumble
- It can be excavated with vertical side slopes
- It is hard to break up when dry
- It can be molded
- It exhibits significant cohesion even when submerged



Granular Soil

- Soils that include gravel, sand, silt
- Very low clay content
- It has no cohesive strength
- Some moist granular soils exhibit apparent cohesion
- It cannot be molded when moist and crumbles easily when dry



Saturation is the amount of water that the soil is currently holding.

Complete saturation is much less stable than soil that is only slightly damp.

However, soil with no water content is unstable

Cohesiveness is how well the soil sticks together.

The more it sticks together, the more stable the trench walls will be.



Soil Types







Stable Rock





A natural solid mineral matter that can be excavated with vertical sides and remain intact while exposed.



Type A Soil = unconfined compressive strength of 1.5 TSF or greater

Clay, silty clay, clay loam, and cemented soils

Not Type A if:

- Subject to other factors that would require it to be classified as a less stable material
- Fissured / cracks
- Subject to vibration
- Previously disturbed





Type B Soil = unconfined compressive strength greater than .5 TSF but less than 1.5 TSF

- Granular soils, gravel, silt, loam, or sandy loam
- Soil that meets Type A but is fissured or subject to vibration.
- Some previously disturbed soils





Type C Soil = unconfined compressive strength of 0.5 TSF or less

- Granular soils, gravel, sand, and sandy loam
- Submerged soil or soil from which water is freely seeping
- Previous disturbed soil





Classification of soil

- Soils need to be classified by a competent person
- The classification shall be made based on the results of at <u>least</u> one visual and one manual analysis conducted by a competent person

Competent Person = capable of recognizing existing and predictable hazards in excavation work and able to take prompt corrective measures. One must have specific training in and be knowledgeable about soils analysis, the use of protective systems, and the requirements of the standard.



Acceptable visual tests - observations

- Determine qualitative information on site in general
- Soil adjacent to excavation and excavated material
- Soil forming the sides of the open excavation
- Estimate range of particle sizes If the soil remains in clumps, it is cohesive; if it appears to be coarse-grained sand or gravel that does not clump, it is considered granular.
- Observe evidence of surface water
- Water seeping from the sides
- Location of the level of the water table



Visual observations

- Evidence of previously disturbed soil -- look for existing utilities or other underground structures that indicate that the soil has previously been disturbed
- Check for **surcharging** and the spoil distance from the edge of the excavation.
- Check for crack-line openings along the failure zone that would indicate tension cracks
- Signs and sources of vibration that may affect stability





Acceptable manual tests

- Plasticity
- Ribbon and thread test
- Dry strength test
- Thumb penetration test
- Pocket pentrometer
- Hand-operated shearvane



Dry Strength Test

- If the soil is dry and crumbles on its own or with moderate pressure into individual grains or fine powder it is granular (sand or silt).
- If the soil is dry and falls into clumps which break up into smaller clumps, but the smaller clumps can only be broken up with difficulty it is a fissured clay.
- If the dry soil breaks into clumps which do not break up into smaller clumps and which can only be broken with difficulty it may be an intact clay, provided the visual examination of the trench and its vicinity did not give any indication of fissures.





Thumb Penetration Test

- The thumb penetration procedure involves an attempt to press the thumb firmly into the soil in question.
- If the thumb makes an indentation in the soil only with great difficulty, the soil is probably Type A.
- If the thumb penetrates no further then the length of the thumb nail, it is probably Type B soil.
- If the thumb penetrates the full length of the thumb it is Type C soil.





The Ribbon Test

- Roll into cylindrical shape 1/2 to 3/4 inch diameter
- Lay across palm of hand
- Press between thumb and second joint of index finger
- Pass through thumb
- Squeeze until it takes the shape of a 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick strip
- Allow to hang freely from hand
- Clay loam will barely ribbon and break easily
- Clay = relatively long ribbon 6 to 8 inches or more
- More clay = longer and stronger ribbon
- Silt has tendency to produce short ribbon with broken
 appearance









Plasticity or Penciling





If a 2 inch or longer thread can be held without breaking, the soil is cohesive.



Field Sedimentation Test

- Glass jar
- 1 1/2 to 2 inches of soil in jar
- 5 inches of water on top of soil
- Shake, set down, twist jar





Torvane – Shear Strength

- Measures the soil shear strength or shear stress the soil can maintain without experiencing failure or cave in
- Failure can be defined as the maximum principal stress difference, which is the same as the (unconfined) compressive strength
- Shear strength is typically ½ of the unconfined compressive strength.





Pocket Penetrometer Test

- Measures unconfined compressive strength
- Amount of pressure in tons per square foot (tsf) required to cause the soil to fail in compression.
- Each foot of depth adds more side pressure. Once the pressure exceeds the ability of the soil to support itself, failure will occur. The amount of force required to cause this failure is called the unconfined compressive strength of the soil.









Soil

- Cubic foot of soil weighs 100 to 140 pounds
- A cubic yard of soil can weigh 2700 3200 pounds ----- 1 to 1 ½ tons

One Cubic Yard of Soil









What Is a Cave-in ?

- Soil or rock suddenly falls or slides into an excavation
- The weight of the soil causes it to gravitate downward and the pressure pushes soil inward toward the trench
- A cave-in occurs anytime the strength of the soil is overcome by the weight of the soil.







Tension Cracks

Tension cracks usually form at a horizontal distance of 0.5 to 0.75 times the depth of the trench, measured from the top of the vertical face of the trench





- A shear wall collapse speed can be 45 mph
- The speed of collapsing dirt is often less than 1/10th of a second



Protective systems

1926.652(a)(1) -- Employees have to be protected from cave-ins in accordance with paragraphs (b) or (c) unless in stable rock or less than 5 feet and when there is no indication of a potential cave-in

- Sloping and benching
- Support systems, shield systems, or other protective systems
- *** Excavations over 20 feet require the design of a protective system by a licensed professional engineer.





Types of Protective Systems



Shielding

Benching



Shoring





Can distance alone is adequate to protect employees from the hazards of cave-ins.

- Employees maintain a distance of at least two times the height of the vertical sidewall from the toe of the sidewall
- Employees must be instructed not to enter the danger zone
- A warning system must be provided to prevent workers from entering the danger zone. Roping off the area or adequately marking the area with cones, flags or other highly visible means







Sloping and Benching

1926.652(b) -- Design = 4 options

- Sloped 1½ H:1V at angle not less than 34°
- Use of appendices A and B
- Use of other tabulated data
- Design by RPE Registered Professional Engineer.


Slope Configurations

Soil or Rock Type	Maximum All Slopes for Ex Less than 20	Unconfined Compressive Strength		
Stable Rock	Vertical	90°		
Type A	³ ⁄4 to 1	53°	≥ 1.5 tons/sq ft	
Type B	1 to 1	45°	.5 - 1.5 tons/sq ft	
Type C	1½ to 1	34°	≤ .5 tons/sq ft	



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Type A Soil Slope – ¾:1
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Benching

- Simple and multiple benching
- Soil type determines horizontal to vertical ratio of the bench
- General rule bottom vertical height of first bench must not exceed 4 feet











Design of sloping and benching systems

1926.652(b)(4) Option (4)-Design by a registered professional engineer





Support systems and shield systems

1926.652(c) -- Design = 4 options

- Use of appendices A, C, and D designs for timber shoring and aluminum shoring
- Design using manufacturers data
- Use of other tabulated data
- Designs not utilizing above approved by RPE





	SIZE (SAS) AND SPACINO OF MEMBERS **													
DEPTH	CROSS BRACES						WA	LES	UPRICHTS					
TRENCH	HORIZ.	IZ. WIDTH OF TRENCH (PEET)				VERT.	VERT.		MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE HORIZONTAL SPACING					
(FEED)	SPACING	UPTO	UPTO	UPTO	UPTO	UPTO	SPACINO	SIZE	SPACINO			(FEET)		
	(FEET)	4	6	9	12	15	(FEET)	(JNG)	(19281)	CLOSE	4	5	6	8
	UPTO							Not	Not					
4	6	4 X 4	4X4	4X4	4X4	4X6	4	Req'é	Req'é				4X6	
	UP TO							Not	Not					
		4X4	4X4	4X4	4X6	4X6	4	Reqid	Req'é					4X8
	UP TO													
	10	4 X 6	4 X 6	4 X 6	6X6	6X6	4	8X8	4			4X6		
10	UP TO													
	12	4 X 6	4X6	4 X 6	6 X 6	6 X 6	4	8X8	4				4 X 6	
	UP TO							Not	Not					
10	6	4X4	4X4	4X4	6X6	6X6	4	Req'd	Req'é				4 X 10	
	UP TO													-
-	8	4X6	4X6	4X6	6X6	6X6	4	6X8	4		4X6			
	UP TO													
	10	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	4	1X1	4			4X8		
15	UP TO													
	12	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	4	\$ X 10	4		4 X 6		4 X 10	
	UPTO													
15	6	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X6	4	6X8	4	3X6				
	UP TO													
		6X6	6 X 6	6X6	6X6	6X6	4	SX8	4	3X6	4 X 12			
	UPTO													
	10	6 X 6	6X6	6X6	6X6	6 X 8	4	8 X 10	4	3X6				
20	UP TO													
	12	6X6	6X6	6X6	6X8	6X8	4	\$ X 12	4	3X6	4 X 12			
OVER 20	SEE NOT	81												

TABLE D - 1.1 ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING VERTICAL SHORES FOR SOIL TYPE A

	HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS						
DEPTH	MAXIMUM	MAXIMUM	WIDTH OF TRENCH (FEET)				
OF TRENCH (FEET)	HORIZONTAL SPACING (FEET)	VERTICAL SPACING (FEET)	UP TO 8	OVER 8 UP TO 12	OVER 12 UP TO 15		
OVER 5 UP TO 10	8						
OVER 10 UP TO 15	8	4	2 INCH DIAMETER	2 INCH DIAMETER NOTE (2)	3 INCH DIAMETER		
OVER 15 UP TO 20	7						
OVER 20		NOTE (1)		in an an			

Footnotes to tables, and general notes on hydraulic shoring, are found in Appendix D, Item (g) Note (1): See Appendix D, Item (g) (1) Note (2): See Appendix D, Item (g) (2)







EFFICIENCY PRODUCTION, INC. Hydraulic Shoring Tab Data 2007

SHORING

Timber - Aluminum – Hydraulic - Pneumatic

- System must fit tight against trench walls
- The system design and materials depend upon trench dimensions







Appendix C – Timber Shoring

- Table has the minimum sizes of timber members for particular type of soil
- Timbers must be Douglas Fir or Oak
- Spacing of cross braces, uprights, and walers







Appendix D – Aluminum Hydraulic Shoring

 Spacing of various aluminum members (vertical shore rails and horizontal walers) and various hydraulic cylinder sizes









- Shoring systems like sheet pile and wale typically are a combination of steel shapes and are not designed as a shoring systems.
- Tabulated design data for the component's but still requires an engineer to apply the component data to design the system.





Site Specific Engineering



SETBACK TABL	E
CRANE (30 TON MAX)	X = 8'
CAT 315 EXCAVATOR	X = 3'
CAT 325 EXCAVATOR	X = 3'
CAT 345 EXCAVATOR	X=7
3 CY LOADER	X = 3"
5 CY LOADER	X=4
DUMP TRUCK	X = 3'
SPOIL PILE (4' TALL)	X = 3°
CONCRETE TRUCK	X = 4"
BUILDING STRUCTURES	X = 10
RAILROAD TRACKS	X = 20
STREET TRAFFIC	$X = 4^{\circ}$





SECTION A-A



Shield systems – Trench boxes

- Shields do not prevent cave-in they just protect when a wall collapses
- Can be used with all classes of soils
- Rated by manufacturer for specific depths in different classes of soil
- Tabulated data must be on-site





No surcharge load is considered in the tabulated maximum panel capacity and depth rating. Surcharge loads occur due to heavy equipment, 9. vibrations, or soil piles adjacent to the trench where adjacent is defined as within a distance equal to the depth of the trench. State and Local Regulations and Previsions shall be followed for surcharge loading application.



C4M-URSB- 420FB	TRENCH SHIELD MAN	UFACTURE	R'S TABULATED DATA	855 PSF
DEL NO.	SOIL TYPE	EFP	MAX DEPTH (FT)	SHIELD CAPACIT
	A	25	35	
C160438	В	45	20	8 IN SCH 80
RIAL NO.	C	60	16	SPREADER SIZE
	С	80	12	(20' MAX LENGTH)

Shields must be used in a manner consistent with safe working procedures, Federal, State and Local regulations. A "Competent Person", defined by OSHA, who has been trained in the proper use of teench shields, safe excavation practic

ethods must direct and control the use of this shield.

montent person" must monitor the exception for any sizes of d

MODE C

SERIAL

This !

onth ratings shown are based upon examples of homogeneous soil conditions. Soil pressures may loads, and slope or embankment (layback). Actual soil pressures should be meniford and verified to be sure that the shield expanity is no

No surcharge load is considered in the tabulated maximum panel capacity and depth rating. Surcharge loads occur due to her brations, or soil piles adjacent to the trench where adjacent is defined as within a distance equal to the depth of the trench. State and Local

- Regulations and Previsions shall be followed for surcharge loading application. This shield is not intended to provide stability to adjacent buildings or other struct
- 11. The spreader is a compression member and plays the most critical role for the integrity of the shield system. To prevent member buckling failure

any type of lateral load should not be applied to be specuder.
any type of lateral load should not be applied to be specuder.
and damone pion with steength of 90 kis shall be placed in its yender to collar connections. Any specader pion subs and on this shield that does not meet the negative structure above will involve and another special state.

GENERAL NOTES FOR TRENCH SHIELD USE:

Modifications of any kind to this shield not specifically allowed by Vestek Manufacturing, LLC, in writing will void this data. Maximum depths are based on shields being in structurally sound condition. This treach shield should be inspected prior to each use for dam

or deterioration. If a shield has sustained major structural damage or permanent deformation of a structural member or connection, the Tabulated Data is void until repairs are made as specified by a Registared Professional Engineer.

- The use of Vestek Manufacturing, LLC, Trench Shields shall be in accordance with this tabulated data and all result ements of the OSHA standard
- Terrch Shield usage other than specified or required may orace unade conditions that evold outs a constraint any requirement on the Collapse readility in a disability livery or even deals. Verset, Manafaturing, LLC, shall not be liable for theid usage other than specified. Use of that reads shald not in a constraince with Manafatarine's Tabulation Data could ensue fujary or elemb.

Vestek Manufacturing, LLC. 7600 S Santa Fe Bldg. B Houston, Texas 77061 Phone: 713-242-7700



Shield systems – Trench boxes

- Free from defects that would impair function
- When damaged a competent person needs to examine and evaluate if shield will support intended loads --RPE
- Shields can be moved horizontally with workers inside but worker must stay inside shields
- No employees in the excavation when the shield is installed, removed, or raised vertically.









You may not exceed the rated capacity of any shield.









Shield systems

No excavating more than 2 feet below the bottom of the shield





Employees are exposed to unsupported walls.



Shield systems

• Must be stabilized to prevent lateral movement







Question: How much clearance should there be between the box and the cut wall?

Depends which system and which manufacturer's tabulated data is being used, three basic guidelines are followed:

- Back fill to ½ of the height of your shoring system on each side.
- GME's standard is a maximum of 4"gap on either side of the trench shield.
- Speed Shore's standard is "the width (ID) of the excavation shall be no wider than the width of the shield (OD) plus 12"









Shield systems

 Shield system must extend at least 18" above toe of trench slope or vertical side





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Specific Requirements -- Underground installations

- Utilities have to be determined prior to excavating
- When operations approach estimated location the installations have to be found by safe and acceptable means
- Installations must be protected, supported, or removed to safeguard employees







Specific Requirements

- Surface encumbrance must be removed or supported
- Adjoining buildings, walls, other structures have to be supported by shoring bracing or underpinning
- Sidewalks, pavements, other structures not undermined unless supported









Specific Requirements – Means of egress

 A stairway, ladder, ramp, or other safe means of egress must be provided if 4 feet or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet of lateral movement







Specific requirements

 Falling Loads – cannot be under loads handled by lifting or digging equipment







Specific requirements

 Mobile equipment – stop logs, barricades, or other system used at the edge of excavations when mobile equipment operated adjacent to excavation







Specific requirements – Hazardous atmospheres

- Oxygen deficient atmospheres <19.5% or >23.0%
- Combustible gas >10% LEL (LFL)
- Near a sewer, landfill, storage area for hazardous substances, pipe systems used for fuel, etc.

Testing atmosphere:

- -- before workers enter an excavation deeper than 4 feet.
- -- if equipment is operating in the trench
- -- if welding, cutting, or burning is done in the trench







Specific requirements - water accumulation

- No work unless precautions taken for hazards posed by accumulating water
- Special shield systems or support systems
- Water removal equipment and monitored by competent person
- Use of dikes, ditches or other means when natural drainage is affected







Protection - loose rock-soil rolling into excavation

- Place and keep excavated spoil at least 2 feet from edge
- Scaling to remove loose material
- Protective barricades or shields –retaining devices









Use of Steel Plates





No Plywood







Inspections by a competent person

- Daily and before the start of work and as needed throughout the shift
- As work conditions change
- After every rainstorm
- When fissures, cracks, undercutting, water seepage, bulging at bottom, etc. occur
- When there is a change in the size, location or placement of the spoil pile
- When there is any indication of change or movement in adjacent structures
- After any hazard increasing occurrence
- Employees **REMOVED** until hazards are until safe



Summary

- Soil mechanics, testing, and classification
- Protective systems
- Specific requirements



Questions ?

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