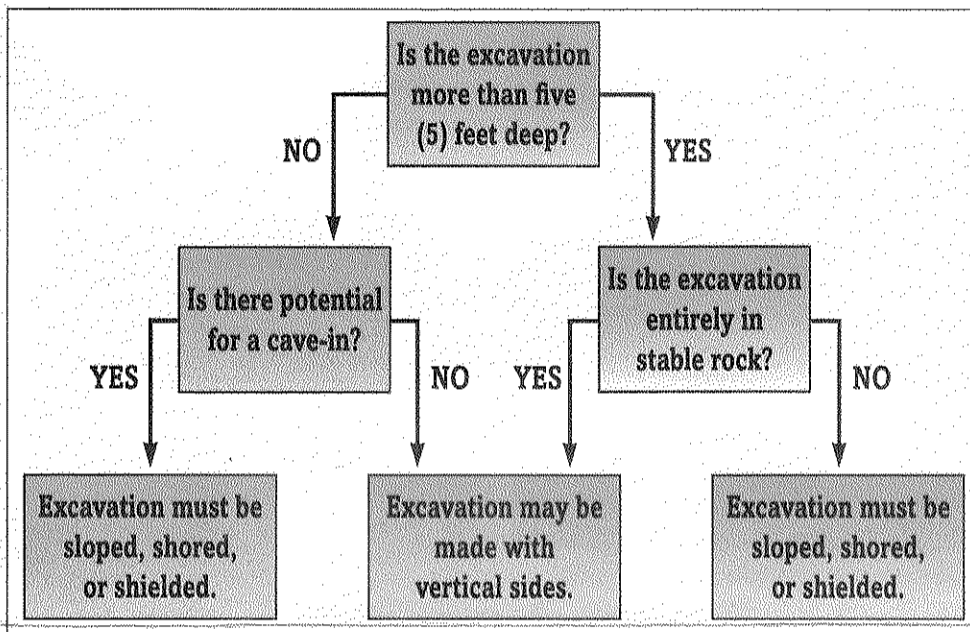


Choosing Appropriate Trench Safety System Doesn't Have To Be Difficult

OSHA, in 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart P, "Excavations and Trenches," provides a chart that can help simplify the selection of a proper trench safety system. The simple chart (see below) will point you in the right direction, and provides the requirements for excavations 20 feet deep or less.



OSHA's Decision Chart

SLOPING OPTIONS:

If you decide not to classify the soil, you must slope at 34 degrees (or a ratio of 1½ horizontal to 1 vertical). Otherwise, you have three options:

- Option 1:** Classify soils as in Appendix A, and use sloping charts in Appendix B to determine if you can slope at a steeper angle.
- Option 2:** Follow other tabulated data in connection with classifying the soils and sloping.
- Option 3:** Have the excavation designed by a registered professional engineer.

SHORING OR SHIELDING OPTIONS:

Soil classification is required when using shoring or shielding, and there are four options available.

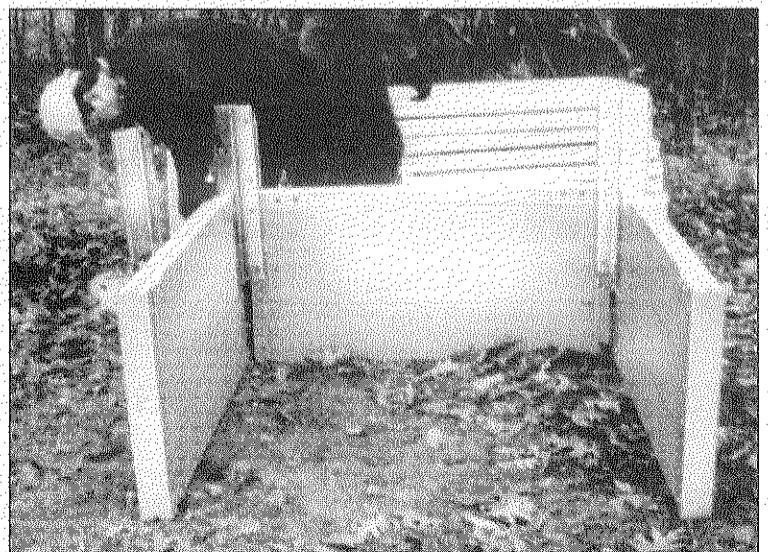
- Option 1—Timber Shoring:** Classify the soils as in Appendix A, and use the appropriate timber chart in Appendix C.
- Option 2—Hydraulic and Other Shoring:** Follow the manufacturer's tabulated data (included with hydraulic, air shores, screw jacks, etc.), or the charts in Appendix D.
- Option 3—Trench Shields:** Follow manufacturer's tabulated data.
- Option 4—Engineering:** Excavation can be designed by a registered professional engineer.

Copies of OSHA's CONSTRUCTION STANDARD FOR EXCAVATIONS AND TRENCHES are available free of charge from TrenchSafety and Supply. Just give us a call at (901) 346-5800 or (800) 865-5801.

History of the Current OSHA Trench Standard

The original safety standards for trenches and excavations were initially adopted in 1971. Almost from the start, there was confusion about the requirements and their enforcement. As a result, work began in 1976 to rewrite the standards. The final rules, as we know them today, were issued in October 1989, and became effective in March 1990.

Though employers have several options available to them to meet the requirements, every option mandates that workers are *always* protected. Decisions must be made from planning through completion of the work. In some situations, a registered professional engineer is required to design the excavation, or the method of protecting workers, or both.



TrenchSafety and Supply is the exclusive Mid-South dealer for Efficiency Products, Inc. (EPI), whose Build-A-Box is popular with many utility and public works departments because of its adaptability for different jobs.

TrenchSafety and Supply provides the training...

OSHA Requires A "Competent Person" On Every Excavation Site

OSHA now requires that a "competent person" be present when workers are exposed in an excavation. OSHA's definition of a "competent person" has two components:

- The "competent person" must be "capable of identifying existing or predictable hazards in the surrounding or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees."
- This person must have the "authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate these hazards."



OSHA requires that a "competent person" be on-site anytime workers are exposed in an excavation. TrenchSafety and Supply provides NUCA-approved "competent person" training throughout the Mid-South.

Applied to trenching or excavation operations, the "competent person" must have specific training and knowledge of the requirements of the standard, soils analysis, and the use of protective systems.

TrenchSafety and Supply's one-day Competent Person Training Program, developed by the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), is designed to help you meet all of OSHA's training requirements. The cost of the training is only \$65, and includes an instructional workbook and lunch.

The workbook, which you'll use in class, will also serve as an invaluable on-the-job reference later. You will also receive a wallet card and certificate from NUCA signifying your completion of the course.

Each class runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Space is now being reserved for these classes in July and August:

- Wednesday, July 20, 1994, Memphis, Tennessee
- Thursday, July 21, 1994, Tupelo, Mississippi
- Wednesday, August 24, 1994, Memphis, Tennessee
- Thursday, August 25, 1994, Jonesboro, Arkansas

To register, call or FAX TrenchSafety and Supply, Inc., (901) 346-5800, (800) 865-5801, or FAX (901) 346-1060.

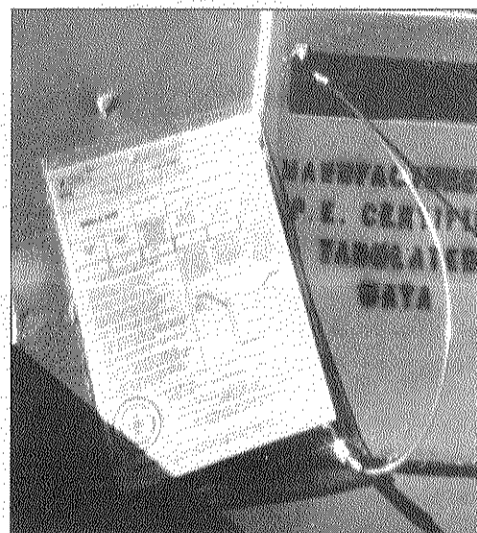
INCLUDED IN TRENCHSAFETY'S NUCA COURSE IS INFORMATION ON...

- How to use visual and manual tests to classify soil
- How and when to inspect for evidence of possible cave-ins and equipment failure
- How to analyze the impact of surcharge loads, ground water, vibration, and weather
- How to test for hazardous atmospheres
- How to use different protection methods to satisfy OSHA's requirements

Cave-In Facts

According to the National Utility Contractors Association...

- Between 100 and 400 people are killed, and 1,000 to 4,000 people are injured each year in trench cave-ins.
- The average worker killed is male, between 20 and 30 years of age, and has not had training. Most deaths occur in trenches 5 to 15 feet deep.
- Workers are killed or injured by suffocation, being crushed, loss of circulation, or being struck by falling objects.
- One cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a pickup truck—approximately 3,000 pounds!



Manufacturer's tabulated data—required by OSHA—is attached to every trench box rented or sold by TrenchSafety and Supply.

EXCAVATION SAFETY NEWS

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This newsletter provides a brief overview of trench protection regulations and systems. It is not intended to provide specific legal or engineering advice. Please refer to OSHA CFR 29, Part 1926, Subpart P, "Excavation and Trenches," and to the manufacturers' tabulated data for specific information.

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