

Excavation Safety Fundamentals: OSHA Standards and Soil Protection

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Overview

Trench and excavation safety is a critical aspect of construction and infrastructure projects that involve digging, excavating, or creating trenches in the ground. It focuses on mitigating the risks and potential hazards associated with such activities to protect workers and prevent accidents. The main objective is to prevent trench collapses, which are one of the most significant threats to workers' lives in these settings.

Course Objectives

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its first Excavation and Trenching Standard, [1926 Subpart P](#), in 1971 to protect workers from excavation hazards. This course helps to address the requirements of the standard and provides information to help workers associated with trenching and excavating recognise hazardous conditions, protective measures, and best practices. The course also discusses soil composition and a general overview of the various properties associated with different types of soil. Some of the most common types of soil conditions that lead to trench and excavation failure are also discussed. This course highlights the requirements in the updated standard for excavation and trenching operations, provides methods for protecting employees against cave-ins, and describes safe work practices for employees. A necessary first step in planning the approach to any trenching or other excavation project is to understand what could go wrong. This understanding can help avoid many of the problems associated with excavation.

Course Content

- OSHA Standard Scope and Application
- Common Soil Problems
- Soil Mechanics
- Soil Types and Pressures
- Determination of Soil Type



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Course Content

- Methods of Protection
- Installation and Removal of Protective Systems
- Entering and Exiting the Excavation
- Sloping Methods
- Training Requirements

Targeted Audience

- Employee
- Supervisor
- Manager
- Contractor

Course Methodology

Facilitated by an experienced professional trainer, this training course will be conducted as a highly interactive workshop session. A variety of training methodologies and facilitation techniques will be used before and during the course whenever applicable. These methods are aimed at enhancing individual and group interaction while maximizing learning. Some of these methods are:

- Online Pre-post Test
- Colorful Visual Aids
- Gamification
- Self-Assessment Instruments
- Simulations
- Case Studies
- Videos
- Group Exercises & Discussions
- Role plays
- Indoor & Outdoor games

