

# Near Miss Report

## Unprotected Excavation below Building Floor



**Potential Outcome:** Personnel injury/property damage

**Activity:** An employee advised the PWD site safety manager (SSM) of a possible unsafe condition in the galley related to a repair project for a clogged sewer line. Upon investigation, the SSM found an unprotected 7ft excavation through the floor slab with a portion undermining the floor slab to locate the pipe. The SSM also found no excavation permit, no excavation competent person on site, and no ladder for accessing and egressing the trench. The SSM immediately stopped work until all items were adequately addressed.

**Possible Causes:**

- Failure to follow proper trench and excavating procedures

**Behaviors to be Learned:**

- Proper sloping or benching as well as proper shoring and shielding must be used during trench and excavation operations – especially those exceeding 5ft deep - to protect both the operators and adjacent facilities, equipment, and utilities
- An excavation competent person shall be involved in the planning and execution of trenching and excavation operations
- Ladders must be within 25ft of any worker in trenches 4ft deep or greater.

**P-1300 NAVFAC Safety and Health Handbook(Dec, 2012):** page 47-48

