

Near Miss Report

Trenching/Excavating



Potential Outcome: Personnel injury



Activity:

Two supervisors passing a work site noticed a back hoe in use that didn't appear to be properly configured. They discovered a work crew in an excavation area without shoring, support systems, excavation permit, water control, and without a competent person in trenching and excavations at the worksite. They considered this as an eminent danger situation and temporarily suspended the activity. They contacted the Site Safety Manager, who arrived and found the soil was 100% sand and confirmed the noted deficiencies. Work was suspended until a competent person in trenching and excavation discussed the deficiencies and revised the excavation plan.



Possible Cause:

- Failure to follow proper trench and excavating procedures.

Behaviors to be Learned:

- Proper sloping, benching, and/or shielding, means of egress, and water intrusion prevention must be used in trenches and excavations, and must be appropriate for the size and surrounding ground conditions.
- Locations of utilities must be known and identified before digging

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

What can go wrong?

What can I do about it?

If I can't do anything about it, whom do I tell?