WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION INSPECTIONS

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Identify elements of the OSHA National Emphasis Program (NEP)
- Discuss 5 things you should know to stay safe in trenches and excavations
- Clearly define what a competent person will do to ensure safe work in trenches

OSHA'S NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM

The National Emphasis Program (NEP) is a policy created by the OSHA to identify and reduce hazards which are likely to cause serious injuries and fatalities.

CPL-02-00-161

Effective Date: 10/1/2018

Supersedes CPL-02-00-069, from 9/19/1985

WHAT IS OSHA DOING?

When will OSHA stop at your site to initiate an inspection?

1. Whenever they observe an open trench
2. Driving to lunch…sure
3. Driving to a programed inspection…yes
4. Driving to a fatality…supposed to report to office location and contractor information

HOW CAN YOU BE PREPARED?

- Train your employees
- Enforce safe behaviors
- Make sure your employees buy in
- Make sure your supervisors sell it
- Make sure your estimators understand it

5-THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Ensures safe access and egress
2. Provide cave in protection
3. Keep materials away from the trench
4. Identify standing water and other hazards
5. Conduct inspections

ENSURE THERE'S A SAFE WAY TO ENTER AND EXIT A TRENCH

Use a proper ladder

- Straight ladder, extension ladder
- No step ladders

Employees inside the trench must have exit within 25' of travel

Keep egress pathway clear

- Pipe, pallets, trash debris

Keep ladders clean

- Hard to do right? You're in a muddy trench!

TRENCHES MUST HAVE CAVE-IN PROTECTION

130 fatalities were reported between 2011 and 2016

Most were from collapses

SLOPE YOUR TRENCH

Time consuming and large volume of material must be removed resulting in:

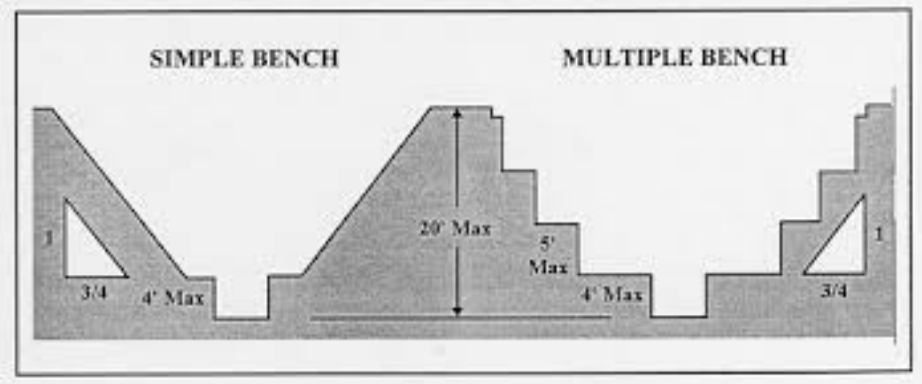
- ↑Excessive time
- ↑More diesel fuel
- ↑More stone for backfill

Why do it?

You have lots of space that can be disturbed

Sloping eliminates the hazard

BENCH YOUR TRENCH



Time consuming and large volume of material must be removed resulting in:

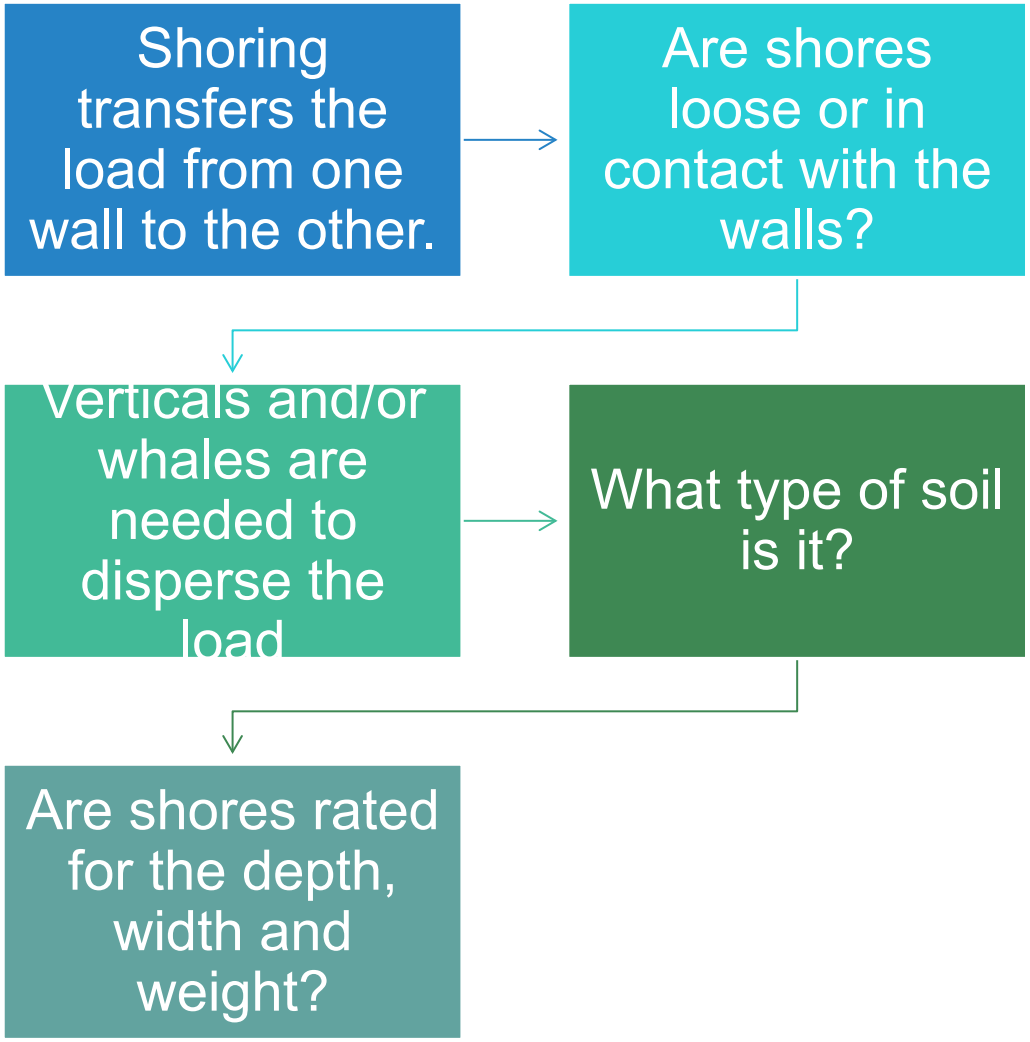
- Excessive time
- More diesel fuel
- More stone for backfill

Why do it?

You have lots of space that can be disturbed

Benching eliminates the hazard

You just want to dig more material than if you slope



SHORE YOUR TRENCH

SHIELD YOUR EMPLOYEES

You must assume the soil will cave in and that needs to be OK

Select the correct box for the depth, width and soil conditions

Have your data sheet for the box on hand

KEEP MATERIALS AWAY FROM THE EDGE

LOOK FOR STANDING WATER OR OTHER HAZARDS

OSHA requires your competent person to manage water

Rain this afternoon? Probably changes your soil conditions

Changing your soil conditions may require modifying your protective system

Now you need to remove the water

NEVER ENTER A TRENCH UNLESS IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY INSPECTED

Your competent Person must be ready to demonstrate they inspected the trench

Have it documented

Identify all the hazards and fix them

Employees must be aware of the hazards

Hands-on, eyes-on do it…you never know who is hiding behind the tree

HOW CAN YOUR COMPETENT PERSON HELP?

Pick a good one

Teach them to be an administrator not just a doer

Hold them accountable

Provide them with the resources they need to make the work safe

Questions?

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