## Risk Assessment - Shallow excavations and working at depths less than 1.5m deep

Reference No: CON-44519-79
Version No: 3
Assessment Approver: Kevin Jarvis

This RA covers shallow excavations and can be used generically.
Any excavation to a depth greater than 1.5, mist have its own individual risk assesment produced and signed-off by a competent person.

Department: Construction and Maintenance
Date Of Assessment: 19 November 2021
Review Due Before: 06 October 2029
Lead Assessor: Chris Bambridge
Team: Sarah Clayton, Chris Helm, Jim Hitchen & Kevin Jarvis

## Working in shallow excavations

| Type | Hazard<br>Cause | Persons Affected | Control Measures | L S T Overall | Additional Control Measures | L S T Overall | Owner/Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health and Safety | Personal injury whilst in a shallow excavation<br>Collapse, falling materials, asphyxiation or contamination | Volunteers & Staff | 1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all loose material well clear of trench edges. - Effective<br>2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all tools and equipment away from the trench edge. - Effective<br>3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Assess ground conditions and provide boards and shuttering if required. - Effective<br>4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all machines and vehicles well away from trenches. - Effective<br>5) CRITICAL - Engineering: Excavations should be regularly checked for gases and fumes. - Effective<br>6) CRITICAL - Engineering: Equipment generating fumes should not be taken into excavations. - Effective<br>7) CRITICAL - Engineering: Trench area to be scanned for underground services before work commences. - Effective<br>8) CRITICAL - Engineering: Hand digging only allowed in the proximity of underground services. - Effective<br>9) CRITICAL - Engineering: At least two means of access to the trench should be provided in case of emergency. - Effective<br>10) CRITICAL - Administrative: There is no safe minimum depth so treat all excavations with caution. - Effective<br>11) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that trenches are protected by barriers on all sides. - Effective<br>12) CRITICAL - Administrative: Provide safety lighting if any risk of fall into the trench during periods of darkness. - Effective<br>13) CRITICAL - Administrative: If deep excavations (>1.5m) are required a separate and individual risk assessment with a suitable rescue plan with rescue tripod and harness must be in place before work starts. - Effective<br>14) CRITICAL - Administrative: Lone working in trenches is not allowed. - Effective<br>15) CRITICAL - Administrative: A competent person who fully understands the dangers and necessary precautions must be in place to supervise the excavation and should inspect it at the start of every work shift. - Effective<br>16) CRITICAL - Administrative: Excavations should not be undertaken near to buildings or other structures. - Effective<br>17) CRITICAL - Administrative: Excavations should be inspected after any event that may have affected their strength or stability, or after a fall of rock or earth. - Effective<br>18) CRITICAL - Administrative: A record of inspections of excavations must be kept to also include any faults that are found and corrective actions put in place. - Effective<br>19) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear suitable protective footwear so that feet can not be contaminated by the excavation material or cement etc. - Effective<br>20) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear gloves, overalls and other task specific PPE - Effective | 2 x 4 = 8<br>Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical. | 1) Engineering: Consider covering the excavations when not in use or left unattended. - Effective<br>2) Administrative: Pay particular attention to the risk of collapse during and after rainfall. - Effective<br>3) Administrative: Beware of excessive bending over leading to light-headedness or fainting. - Effective | 2 x 4 = 8<br>Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical. | n/a |

| Type | Hazard<br>Cause | Persons<br>Affected | Control Measures | L S T<br>Overall | Additional Control Measures | L S T<br>Overall | Owner/Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Score and Control Measure Notes.**<br>Risk is medium due to the potential for a crush injury.<br>Risk remains medium. | | | | | | | |

## COSHH Assessments

There are no COSHH assessments associated with this risk assessment.

Ends

## Appendix



**Reference: UI-44519-481**
Trench shuttering example -



**Reference: UI-44519-552**
Trench shuttering example -