



Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc
Risk Assessment for Working at depth (in trenches etc) - Construction and Maintenance

Risk Assessment - Working at depth (in trenches etc)

Reference No: CON-44519-79
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 Assessment Approver: Martin Sedgwick

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Working in excavations and trenches

Type	Hazard 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 the trench Collapse, falling materials, asphyxiation or contamination	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all loose material well clear of trench edges. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all tools and equipment away from the trench edge. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Assess ground conditions and provide boards and shuttering if required. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep all machines and vehicles well away from trenches. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Engineering: Excavations should be regularly checked for gases and fumes. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Engineering: Equipment generating fumes should not be taken into excavations. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Engineering: Trench area to be scanned for underground services before work commences. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Engineering: Hand digging only allowed in the proximity of underground services. - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Engineering: At least two means of access to the trench should be provided in case of emergency. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Administrative: There is no safe minimum depth so treat all excavations with caution. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that trenches are protected by barriers on all sides. - Effective 12) CRITICAL - Administrative: Provide safety lighting if any risk of fall into the trench during periods of darkness. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - Administrative: If deep excavations are required a suitable rescue plan with rescue tripod and harness must be in place before work starts. - Effective 14) CRITICAL - Administrative: Lone working in trenches is not allowed. - Effective 15) CRITICAL - Administrative: A competent person must be in place to supervise the excavation. - Effective 16) CRITICAL - Administrative: Excavations should not be undertaken near to buildings or other structures. - Effective 17) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear suitable protective footwear so that feet can not be contaminated by the excavation material or cement etc. - Effective 18) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear gloves, overalls and other task specific PPE - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 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 2) Administrative: Pay particular attention to the risk of collapse during and after rainfall. - Effective 3) Administrative: Beware of excessive bending over leading to light-headedness or fainting. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	n/a

Score and Control Measure Notes.

Risk is medium due to the potential for a crush injury.
 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 -