

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 16 - No 1 TRENCH HAZARD

Trench hazards are easily overlooked on the job site. On a routine inspection, an electrical company was excavating an 8' trench to run power lines underground. As supervisors were talking about how they were going to work in the trench, they were exposing themselves to a fall hazard. Even though they had barricades around the excavation to keep other workers out, they were exposing their own employees.

To correct the problem, the supervisor posted signs along an orange mesh fence and designated an area for entry and exit into the trench.

INCORRECT - No barricade keeping personnel from getting close to trench



CORRECT - Barricade correctly in place to keep personnel from getting too close to an open trench



There are many times employees focus on protecting other companies to stay away from their job site. However, pre-planning the work area will help eliminate any hazards found during working hours.

1926.501(b)(7)Excavations(I) Each employee at the edge of an excavation 6 ft. or more shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, or barricades when the excavations are not readily seen because of plant growth or other visual barriers.

1926.501(b)(7)(ii) Each employee at the edge of a well, pit, shaft, and similar excavation 6 ft. or more in depth shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, barricades, or covers.

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