



Minnesota Electrical Association

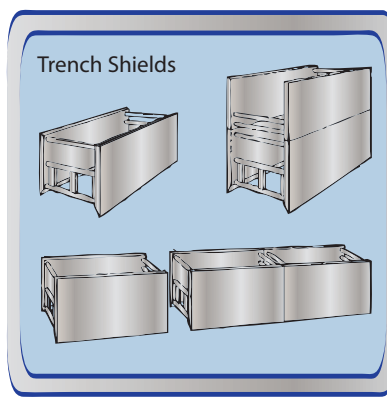
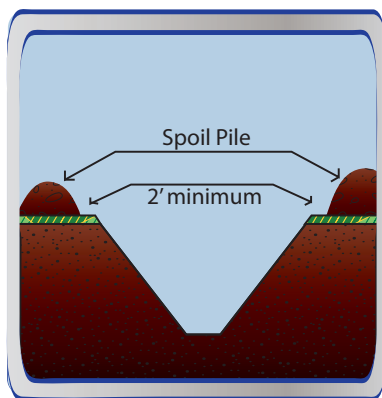
Electrical Toolbox Talks

Excavations

- Daily inspections of excavations, the adjacent areas, and protective systems shall be made by a competent person for evidence of a situation that could result in possible cave-ins, failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions.
- Each employee in an excavation will be protected from cave-ins by a protective system, except when excavations are made entirely in stable rock or excavations are less than 5 feet in depth and examination of the ground by a competent person provides no indication of a potential cave-in.
- Means of egress from trench excavations - A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress shall be located in trench excavations that are 4 feet or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet of lateral travel for employees.
- Employees must be protected from excavated or other materials or equipment that could pose a hazard by falling or rolling into excavations. Protection will be provided by placing and keeping materials or equipment at least 2 feet from the edge of excavations, or by the use of retaining devices that are sufficient to prevent materials or equipment from falling or rolling into the excavation.
- Don't work in trenches with accumulating water. Make sure it's controlled before you begin work.
- Exposed piping should be supported every 30 feet at a minimum.
- Some excavations can be a potential confined space. Be aware of toxic gases, especially working near landfills, septic tanks, etc.
- Before digging, confirm that the "One Call" has been completed. Write down or be aware of the ticket number that they issue for your jobsite.



Several OSHA violations are present in this photo: no egress, no high-visibility clothing, accumulation of water, and lack of a protection system such as sloping or trench box.



More information on excavation requirements can be found in OSHA booklet on Trenching and Excavations at: www.osha.gov/Publications/osa2226.pdf

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