

Save Your Life Actions

Excavation



Start-Work Authority: I will not start work until I confirm...

Actions	How to (examples)
<p>1 Underground utilities are visibly marked (e.g., pipelines, cables, communications, power).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm local utilities have been notified of the dig so they can identify their lines (e.g., One-Call). • Confirm underground utilities are visibly identified with flagging or paint. • Confirm depth and width of pipeline are known before digging, or non-mechanical means are used to find lines.
<p>2 Excavation equipment maintains minimum clearances from overhead obstructions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask crew members if they know the exact location, height and voltage of overhead power lines. • Confirm excavating equipment is a safe distance from overhead power lines by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applying the overhead power line proximity calculation (load length + equipment height + at least 10 feet), - Using goal posting barriers on overhead power lines or - Maintaining a minimum of 6 meters (20 feet) distance between equipment and energy source for unknown voltages
<p>3 Excavation area is secured and barriers are in place to prevent unauthorized access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm excavation area is visibly identified with caution tape, silt fencing or other visual identification. • Confirm excavation site is secure from unauthorized access. • Confirm a competent person assessed the soil type to define the excavation. • Confirm no personnel are in line-of-fire hazards (e.g., swing radius, discharge side of trencher). • Confirm personnel will not be allowed to enter or occupy excavations while heavy equipment is digging. • Confirm essential personnel in the crew who need to be in the area.
<p>Hold Point: Continue if personnel enter excavation</p>	
<p>4 Excavation has been evaluated to determine if it is a confined space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the excavation area has been evaluated to determine if it is a confined space (trench depths greater than or equal to 1.2 meters or 4 feet with vertical walls and limited access/egress). • If the excavation area is a confined space follow the CSE standard and complete the CSE Start-Work Check.

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<p>5 Plan is in place to protect personnel entering the excavation from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cave in; b. Hazardous atmosphere; and c. Water accumulation. 	<p>Cave in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective systems include but are not limited to bracing, shoring, underpinning, benching, retaining devices or shield systems. • Confirm daily inspection to identify hazards and changing conditions will be performed. • Assure crew will report collapse, contamination, water build up or utilities encountered. <p>Hazardous atmosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for gas testing if you have unexpected odors, leaks or equipment. • Ask Qualified Gas Tester to explain how they know the gas meter is working as designed. • Watch initial gas testing and confirm results on meter are within acceptable limits. • Confirm that follow-up frequency is documented on permit prior to starting work. • Confirm that no more than 30 minutes will pass after the initial gas testing before starting work. • Confirm Qualified Gas Tester has tested for stratified atmospheres. <p>Water accumulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm crew will conduct daily inspection to identify hazards and changing conditions.
<p>6 Excavations deeper than 1.2 meters (4 feet) have access and egress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm there is a safe means of access and egress when entering an excavation greater than 1.2 meters (4 feet) in depth, up to 7.6 meters (25 feet) of lateral travel. • Examples are ladder, stairways, ramps, sloping for ingress/egress.