

Excavation safety

To ensure workplace safety, it is essential to implement effective segregation of the excavation area and to use machinery correctly, following operational procedures and relevant regulations.

Make sure there are always safe entry and exit zones in the excavation, taking into account any emergencies or adverse weather conditions.

Ex: Install a sturdy ladder with handrails and create a non-slip pathway. Also, check that there is no standing water that could make exiting difficult in case of need.

In case of emergency, do you know the Emergency Plan? Have you been informed about the emergency procedures?

Ex: If there is an accident, always follow the procedures and head to the assembly point near the site entrance, and call for emergency assistance if necessary.

Is an excavation permit available?

Ex: Are the necessary permits available, including traffic permits and approvals from the relevant authorities?

Are the PPE assigned to protect you from the risks of your tasks and work environment in good condition, and are you wearing them properly?

Ex: Check that the PPE you use are not damaged and have not expired.

Always make sure the ground shows no signs of subsidence before starting work.

Ex: If you see cracks or hazardous material, stop immediately and inform the supervisor.

Before starting excavation, make sure to check for the presence of underground utilities (electrical cables, gas pipelines) in the area.

Ex: Refer to the utility map, as all underground services must be identified, clearly marked, and, if necessary, isolated to prevent damage or accidents.

Protect and mark the excavation area to maintain a safe distance from the hazard zone.

Ex: Place rigid barriers around the excavation, install safety netting, and add warning signs with the hazard symbol.

Make sure every excavation is properly shored, sloped, or protected with benches.

Ex: Stabilize the sides with retaining panels or shape the soil into benches to reduce pressure on the walls.



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