

Excavation Safety Resources

Understanding the Risks and Planning for Worker Safety

When an excavation or trench collapses, it can result in serious and even fatal injuries. Excavation work must be carried out according to the written instructions of a qualified registered professional in any of the following cases:

- The excavation is more than 6 m (20 ft.) deep. An improvement or structure is adjacent to the excavation.
- The excavation is subject to vibration or hydrostatic pressure likely to result in ground movement hazardous to workers.
- The ground slopes away from the edge of the excavation at an angle steeper than a ratio of 3 horizontal or 1 vertical



Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation

Sections 20.78 to 20.95 of the OHS Regulation outline the requirements for excavations. Refer also to Part 20 of the [OHS Guidelines](#).



Worker dies when excavation wall collapses

This hazard alert describes an excavation-related incident that resulted in the death of a worker, and highlights some safe work practices for working in and around excavations.



Excavation Death Trap: Not Today

This WorkSafeBC slide show describes a near-miss incident where a worker climbs out of an excavation just before it collapses.



Excavations: Soil Instability

This WorkSafeBC video demonstrates the hazards associated with soil instability caused by a variety of conditions. This video is part of a series that illustrates the common hazards associated with excavations, including procedures for preparing and working in a trench.



Excavation crew contacts underground power lines

This hazard alert describes an incident related to contact with underground power lines, and outlines some safe work practices.



**Construction
Compliance: Field
Officer Guide**

This InfoFlip is primarily for WorkSafeBC officers to use as a guide during inspections, but employers, supervisors, and workers may also find the information useful to help them meet their health and safety responsibilities.



**Health and safety
responsibilities:
Construction**

This toolbox meeting guide outlines the health and safety responsibilities of workers, supervisors, and employers in construction.

Additional **construction resources** are available on worksafebc.com and our Construction High Risk Strategies page at www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/what-we-do/high-risk-strategies/construction.