

Toolbox Talk

23. Excavations



What?

- It is necessary to excavate the ground to lay pipes and cables as we build foundations to erect structures as part of the construction process. Excavations can be shallow or very deep depending on what is going into them, some have vertical sides whereas others have sloping sides which reduce the likelihood of sudden collapse

Why?

- Before any attempt is made to disturb the surface of the ground, information needs to be obtained regarding the area of the excavation. This will include information regarding buried services, land contamination and adjacent structures that may be affected by the excavation
- Before digging any excavations, it is important to plan against the following: collapse of the sides, materials falling onto people working in the excavation, people and vehicles falling into the excavation, people being struck by plant, undermining nearby structures, risks from underground services

Do



- ✓ Follow all Permit conditions and associated procedures
- ✓ Ensure any support equipment such as trench sheets, props, baulks, etc, is installed before work starts.
- ✓ Use the correct type of excavation equipment
- ✓ Wear suitable PPE
- ✓ Use safe access when entering excavations
- ✓ Keep vehicles away from excavations
- ✓ Avoid gases entering the excavation
- ✓ Slope the sides where possible
- ✓ Hand dig when close to buried services

Don't



- ✗ Stand too close to moving equipment
- ✗ Allow heavy plant too close to the edges
- ✗ Excavate in water logged areas
- ✗ Go into an unsupported excavation
- ✗ Go beyond the supported area
- ✗ Get too near the edge of excavations



Document Name	TBT 23 Excavations	Document No	FM/HS/TBT/025
Document Owner	Stuart Care	Date of Issue	13/01/2017
Classification	Internal Use	Version No	01