FILE ID: TBTcss0008e

Excavations & Pits

SAFETY.CAT.COM™

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM.

TOPIC: Excavations & Pits

Every year, people are killed or seriously injured when working in excavations. Excavation work has to be properly planned, managed, supervised and carried out to prevent accidents.

Dangers

- Collapse of the sides.
- Materials falling onto people working in the excavation.
- People and vehicles falling into the site.
- Undermining nearby structures.
- Contact with underground utilities.

Safety Tips

- Make sure necessary equipment (such as trench sheets, props, baulks, etc.) is available on site before work begins.
- Do not go into unsupported excavations.
- Never work ahead of the support.
- Do not store materials close to the sides an excavation.
- Make sure edges are protected against falling materials. Provide toe boards where necessary.
- Always wear a hard hat.
- If an excavation is more than six feet deep, provide barriers to prevent falling.
- Make sure excavations do not affect the footings of scaffolds or the foundations of nearby structures.
- Provide good ladder access or other safe ways of getting in and out of the excavation.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CATERPILLAR®