



SAFETY ALERT #11



Week of April 24th, 2006

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

This is an excerpt from the Detroit Free Press, Monday April 24th.

Trench death could have been prevented, safety official says

Eastpointe man buried alive at Addison Twp. site

A 41-year-old man was killed when the walls of an 8-foot deep trench he and another man were digging in Addison Township collapsed. This accident could have been prevented if the company followed state safety regulations, a top Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration official said Monday. The victim apparently fell as he was trying to get away from the wet, doughy dirt that covered him up. The other man, who also was caught in the cave in, was buried up to his chest and was flown by helicopter to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital for treatment. It took about six hours to dig the victim out. Rain from the night before also may have contributed to the collapse.

Sound familiar? The rest of this Safety Alert is a copy of SA-#3. that went out last August but bears repeating.

Best Practices

In 2003 MIOSHA wrote 231 excavation related violations, all but 10 were “serious”. They did this for a reason, since 1994, 18 people have been killed in trench collapses. That’s almost 2 per year. Companies who do excavation and trench work must insure that the side of an excavation more than 5’ deep is sloped as prescribed by the standard. **Rule 941(1)** Also that spoils and other material be stored and retained not less than 2’ from the excavation edge. **Rule 933(2)** If the excavation is a trench, as it was in this case, a trench shoring system shall be used or the sides shall be properly sloped to protect against a cave-in. **Rule 931(2)** These are just a few provisions of MIOSHA Part 9.

Standards

MIOSHA Part 9. Excavation, Trenching and Shoring
OSHA 1926.650 Subpart P

Helpful websites

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/trenching/>

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/constructiontrenching/index.html>

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/trenching/mainpage.html>

Joe Forgue ARM, ASP

Manager of Education and Safety Services

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (CAM)

(248) 972-1141 direct

forgue@cam-online.com
