

Guidance on Management of Temporary Works for UTX and Drainage works

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 accident

This guidance is to provide advice for those involved in planning and delivering excavation work.



There is no Trench Support to prevent this individual being trapped if the sides of the excavation failed

This Trench Support will prevent an individual being trapped if the sides of the excavation fail and the ladder allows for safe entry and exit to the excavation



Did you know “one cubic metre of soil can weigh as much as one tonne”

General Guidance

Design: Trenchless techniques should always be considered at the design stage as they replace the need for major excavations if this is not possible make sure the necessary equipment needed such as trench support, props, baulks, are available on site before work starts

Before you start digging any excavations, it is important to plan against the following and adhere to the Life Saving Rules at all times:

- Collapse of the sides, Materials falling onto or working in the excavation
- Vehicles working in the vicinity of the excavation (including trains, RRVs, lorries etc)
- People being struck by plant – “LSR” exclusion zone
- Undermining nearby structures – Track Geometry, movement
- Contact with underground services – “LSR” Permit to Dig
- Access to the excavation – “LSR” Working at Height
- Fumes - Confined spaces
- Accidents to members of the public – segregation All the above information shall be addressed during the designer risk assessment process, Construction Phase Plan, Work Package Plans and Task Briefings for all applicable projects.

Inspection: A competent person must supervise the installation, alteration or removal of excavation support, for people working in excavations always give clear instructions on how to work safely including after any event likely to have affected the strength or stability of the excavation or after any accidental fall of rock, earth or other material

Remember: No ground can be relied upon to stand unsupported in all circumstances.

The following Life Saving Rules apply :



Always be sure that the required plans and permits are in place before you start a job or go on or near the line



Always use a safety harness when working at height unless other protection is in place



Never enter the agreed exclusion zone unless directed to by the person in charge

You must receive a Task Specific Brief on the risks and the controls for working in any excavation, if you have not been briefed or a change occurs, you should immediately stop work and report this to your supervisor.