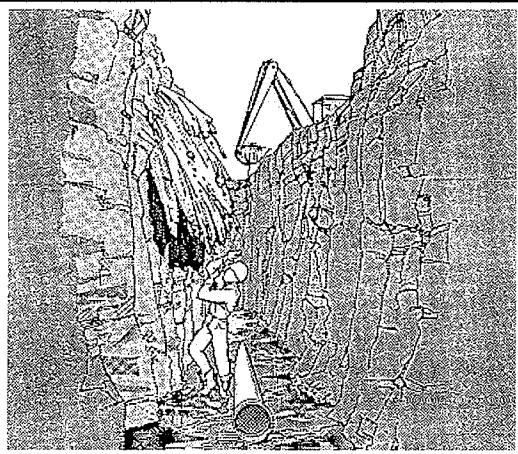


# ACCIDENT REPORT FATAL FACTS

## ACCIDENT SUMMARY No. 9

Accident Type:	Trench Cave-in	
Weather Conditions:	Good	
Type of Operation:	Pipe Laying	
Size of Work Crew:	3	
Collective Bargaining:	No	
Competent Safety Monitor on Site:	No	
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	No	
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly:	No	
Training and Education Provided:	No	
Employee Job Title:	Pipe Layer	
Age & Sex:	32-Male	
Experience at this Type of Work:	4 Months	
Time on Project:	5 Minutes	

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Two employees were installing storm drain pipes in a trench, approximately 20-30 feet long, 12-13 feet deep and 5-6 feet wide. The side walls consisted of unstable soil undermined by sand and water. There was 3-5 feet of water in the north end of the trench and 5-6 inches of water in the south end. At the time of the accident, a backhoe was being used to clear the trench. The west wall of the trench collapsed, and one employee was crushed and killed.

## INSPECTION RESULTS

As result of the its investigation, OSHA issued citations for one willful, one serious, and one other-than-serious violation of its construction standards.

OSHA's construction safety standards include several requirements which, if they had been followed here, might have prevented this fatality.

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Employers must shore, slope sheet or brace sides of trenches in unstable material (29 CFR 1926.652(b) or 1926.651(c)).
2. There must be a means of escape from a trench such as ladder (29 CFR 1926.652(h)).
3. Trench work is to be inspected daily by a "competent person". When there s evidence of cave-ins or slides, all work must stop (29 CFR 1926.650(i)).
4. Water must not be allowed to accumulate in a trench (29 CFR 1926.651(p)).
5. Excavation material must be moved at least two feet from the edge of the trench (29 CFR 1926.651(i)).
6. Where heavy equipment is operating near a trench, extra precautions must be taken due to the extra load imposed on the ground (29 CFR 1926.651(q)).

## SOURCES OF HELP

- ✓ Construction Safety and Health Standards (OSHA 2207) which contains all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations covering construction.
- ✓ Excavation and Trenching Operations (OSHA 2226), is a 20-page booklet describing pertinent OSHA standards in detail.

- √ Safety and Health Excavation and Trenching Operations, available from the National Audio Visual Center (NAC) (Order No. 689601, \$60) an instructional program designed to increase awareness and understanding of the problems and hazards in excavation and trenching operations. It includes an instructor's guide and 139 slides.
- √ Trenching, also available from NAC (Order No. 007516, \$40), a slide-tape hazard recognition program including 96 slides, instructor's guide, workbook and course outline.
- √ Sloping, Shoring and Shielding, a one-day instructional program with classroom sessions and hands-on workshop. Available from NAC (Order No. 009863, \$30), the package includes an instructor's manual, outline for field exercise/workshop and 60 slides.

**NOTE:** The case here described was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.