

Protecting our people and our integrity
Safety, Health & Environment

ALERT No. 062



23rd September 2010

Trench Collapse



A serious accident occurred on a DCWW Waste Water Site when a contractor was excavating a trench to determine the location of a leak. One of the contractor's staff entered the excavation to examine the pipe before the trench had been secured with the appropriate shoring. As the contractor was in the trench it collapsed and trapped the contractor who had to be dug out by the emergency services. The contractor sustained a broken leg.

Important: Would all teams involved in managing contractors please ensure that the following guidance is brought to the attention of all staff,

What you need to know

Every year people are killed or seriously injured by collapses and falling materials while working in excavations.

They are at risk from:

- Excavations collapsing and burying or injuring people working in them;
- material falling from the sides into any excavation; and
- people or plant falling into excavations
- Remember, no ground can be relied upon to stand unsupported in all circumstances
- One cubic metre of soil can weigh as much as one tonne

All excavations must be shored up or battered back and or piled before any entry can be allowed.

Please ensure that this information is discussed at team meetings

For issue to: All Employees ✓ Partners ✓ External Contractors ✓

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If you are a manager, please ensure that your team members are aware of the content of this Alert or where indicated issue to external contractors. Additional information or guidance required on the content is available from the DCWW H+S Team.