TOOLBOX TALKS

EXCAVATIONS & PITS

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

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.

EXCAVATIONS & PITS

☑ **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 of an excavation
- Make sure edges are protected against falling materials. Provide toe boards where necessary
- Always wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g., hard hat)
- If an excavation is more than 6 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:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

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