



## Safety Topic Info Sheet

### EXCAVATION SAFETY POLICY

Each year workers are either killed or seriously injured in trench cave-ins. In many instances, the cause of these accidents is a failure to properly shore or slope the trench. City of Los Angeles Mayoral Directive, Public Works Policy, and BCA's IIPP instruct all inspection staff to have reasonable training in order to keep the BCA employee safe in their duties and protect the public.

Each BCA Inspector working in or around an excavation shall have an understanding of these key requirements of Cal-OSHA regulations Subchapter 4. Construction Safety Orders; Article 6. Excavations, and BCA policy.

1. BCA M-141 (10-04) Competent Person (CP)
  - (A) All Project Inspectors are to obtain a completed Form M-141 for each project prior to the beginning of construction.
  - (B) If the Contractor's Competent Person changes, the contractor must submit a revised Form M-141 prior to excavation work.
  - (C) The Competent Person shall provide daily written confirmation to the Inspector that all required inspections of the excavation have been performed prior to the start of work.
2. Subsurface Clearance
  - (A) Contractors are required to have substructures identified by DigAlert prior to excavation
  - (B) Inspectors are to maintain a log of all project DigAlert ID Numbers at the site.
3. Verification of Cal-OSHA T1-Annual Trench/Excavation Permit
  - (A) The Contractor shall provide to the Inspector a copy of its Annual Trench/Excavation Permit prior to beginning of any excavation work.
4. Competent Person
  - (A) "(1) Daily inspections of excavations, the adjacent areas, and protective systems shall be made by a competent person for evidence of a situation that could result in cave-ins, indications of failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions. An inspection shall be conducted by the competent person prior to the start of work and as needed throughout the shift. Inspections shall also be made after every rain storm or other hazard increasing occurrence. These inspections are only required when employee exposure can be reasonably anticipated."
  - (B) "(2) Where the competent person finds evidence of a situation that could result in a possible cave-in, indications of failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous



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conditions, exposed employees shall be removed from the hazardous area until the necessary precautions have been taken to ensure their safety.”

5. The Inspector

(A) In the event the BCA Inspector does not agree with the assessment of the Competent Person, feels the shoring system is improperly installed, and/or there is eminent danger to himself/herself, contractor personnel, or the public, the Inspector is to immediately clear all personnel from the excavation, address the situation with the Contractor, and notify his/her District Supervisor and Division Chief.

(B) The Inspector shall document all actions taken, conversations, and actions by the Contractor to remedy the situation.