



SAFETY CORNER



SAFETY DISCUSSION

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Excavation Access and Egress



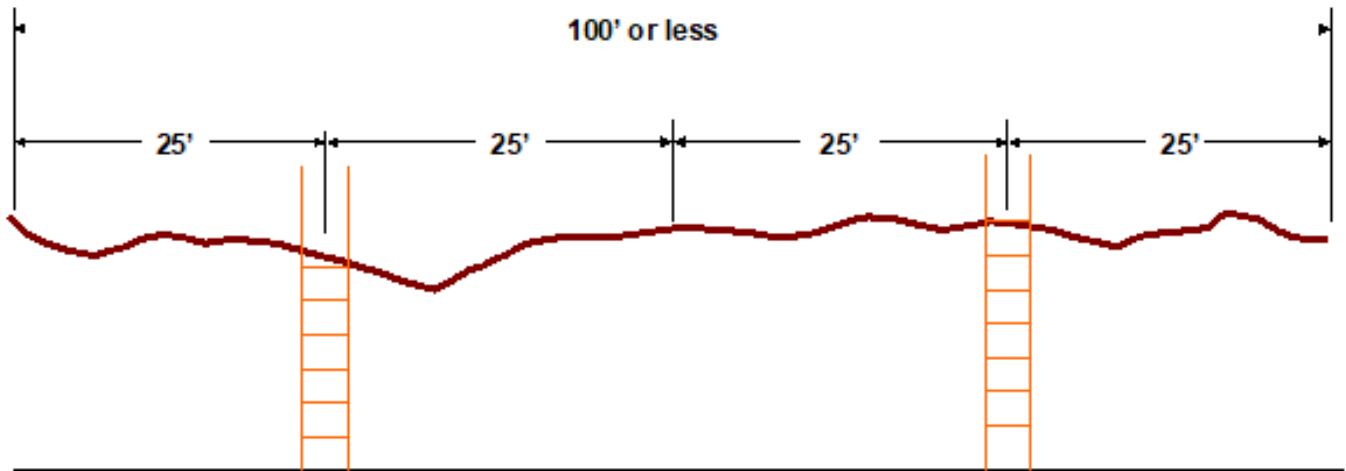
Trenching and excavation is one of the most dangerous hazards that is present on many jobsites. One major hazard for excavation and trenching is not having a safe plan to enter and exit the trench. Having safe access and egress is important because when conditions in a trench become hazardous, having a quick way to get out of the trench can be the difference in survival.

How to Prevent Hazard: Provide a stairway, ramps, ladders, or any other safe exit in all trenches that are 4 feet or deeper in depth. These must be within 25 feet of lateral travel from each person in the excavation.

Ramps and Runways: If structural ramps and runways are going to be used for access and egress, they must be designed by a competent person. Structural ramps that are going to be used for access and egress of equipment need to be designed by a competent person qualified in structural design. If two or more components are used to form a ramp, they must be connected to prevent

displacement, which could cause tripping. The ramps also need to be of uniform thickness. Ramps should also have cleats on the surface to prevent slipping on surfaces.

Ladders- When using a ladder, the top must be 3 feet above the hole or cut excavation. How you can measure this is by the steps on the ladder. Each step is one foot apart. Also, when climbing up and down ladders, it is important to maintain 3 points of contact. This could be 2 feet and 1 hand, or 2 hands and 1 foot. Best Practice: Locate your means of access/egress as close to the work as possible.



When trench is 100' long or less, the minimum number of ladders is two, properly placed to limit travel distance from work to ladder to 25' or less.

If trench is longer than 100' additional ladders may be needed.

If work is confined to one small area, only one ladder may be necessary

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some other items we can use for trench access and egress?
2. How can we make sure the ramp is designed correctly?
3. What items for access and egress would be easiest and more convenient for all workers?



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