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Talk No: 25	Title: EXCAVATION WORK
Introduction: Trenches are potential killers. The majority of fatal trench accidents occur where the depth is less than 1.5m. A cubic meter of earth can weigh over 1.5 tones – which will crush a man.	
Main points: - Prior to any digging carry out thorough checks for services. - Plan excavations including shoring requirements, safe access/egress, etc. - Ensure any support/shoring materials are present on site prior to commencing excavations.	
Discussion points: - Excavations must be supported/battered back where necessary to prevent collapse. - Use ladders for access/egress – do not climb supports. - Provide edge protection around excavations to protect other workers, the public, etc. - Keep soil heaps, tools and vehicles back away from the edge of excavations. - Never throw tools/materials into an excavation – always pass hand to hand or lower on a rope. - Wear suitable PPE, including head and foot protection. - Do not jump across excavations – provide suitable bridges where required. - If vehicles are to be used to fill, then position stops to ensure vehicles cannot drive into excavations. - Never adjust/adapt supports/shoring without first getting approval from person in charge. Excavations must be inspected prior to entry, at the start of each shift, and after any destabilizing event (including heavy rain). - Excavations must be formally inspected by a competent person at least once every seven days and the results recorded. THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE – DON'T DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE!	
Notes:	