

Enter contractor's logo and name here	Company Identification	Contractor Identification	Revision Index		Sheet of Sheets 60 / 9
	Enter document no. from owner here	Enter document no. from contractor here	Validity Status	Rev. N.	
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Talk No: 52	Title: Excavator Operators
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.	
Discussion points: ▪ You must only operate machines of a type on which you have been trained and authorized to use. ▪ Do not use the machine as a crane without full authority. ▪ See that your machine is serviceable and correctly maintained at all times. ▪ Check ground conditions before starting work. Find out the position of any underground services in the working area. ▪ Never carry passengers. It is illegal. ▪ Always keep a sharp lookout for other persons and machines working nearby. Use a banks-man where necessary. ▪ Look out for obstructions, especially overhead cables, at all times. ▪ Before a vehicle ensure the driver is out of the cab, unless this has special protection. ▪ Before leaving the machine for any reason, always lower the bucket to the ground and make sure the brakes and safety locks are on. ▪ On completion of work, ground the bucket and immobilize the machine. ▪ Always ensure buckets, booms and jibs are supported when raised for maintenance. ▪ Report all defects immediately. ▪ Work only with an authorized Banks-man/Slinger and operate to his signals. Do not reach to signals from unauthorized persons, except in an emergency. ▪ Check for obstructions and men in the vicinity of the crane before slewing. Clearance of at least 0.609 m (2) must as far as practicable be maintained between moving parts of the crane and any nearby fixture. ▪ Watch out for overhead power lines. Do not pass under unless within the confines of “goal posts” and a banks-man is in attendance. ▪ Working alongside power lines should not be undertaken unless authorized and closely supervised. ▪ Before loading a vehicle ensure the driver is out cab unless this has special protection. THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE – DON'T DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE!	
Notes:	