

Excavation Collapse**What Happened**

Whilst carrying out drainage works within an open excavation 2m deep, an operative received serious leg injuries when the wall of the excavation partly collapsed. The IP had previously been working within the trench box; however, the IP stepped outside the protection of the trench box to adjust the bed level further down the excavation.

At this point a large boulder of clay collapsed and fell onto the IP's leg, leaving him pinned and unable to escape from the excavation, resulting in his leg being broken in 6 places.

The operative had to be rescued by the emergency services and was taken to hospital for treatment.

**Learning points**

- If you do not need to enter an excavations **Do Not**.
- Lead by example, if you have to work in an excavation you must:
 - Ensure the excavation is SAFE to enter and that it has been assessed by a competent person
 - Ensure that a safe system of work has been implemented
 - The excavation is adequately supported or battered back.
- Just because you have not seen any evidence of excavation instability, be aware that conditions change. Always ensure that the excavation is inspected and assessed and the correct method of support is in place.
- If you see a someone putting them self at risk Walk over and have a conversation you could prevent an accident.
- Take Ten, excavation support systems are your last choice. Always consider other excavation methods first i.e. battering/Stepping of the excavation walls, no dig technology.
- If you are planning excavation works ensure you consider the dangers presented by the confined nature of the works ensure that adequate means of access & egress are provided, especially in case of an emergency.

For further guidance consult your supervisor or the Excavation GSOP/SHEA/SO17

If you see something wrong

REMEMBER

MAD Making A Difference

Take Ten - Lead By Example – Walk over