



## Hazard Highlight: Trench Safety

A large part of our work involves excavations and trenches. Each year in the United States, 80 to 100 workers die in trench cave-ins, and thousands of injuries occur in excavation operations. By far, the largest part of these accidents could have been avoided by following proper trenching techniques. On every project, each employee should become familiar with the regulations and guidelines for safe excavation.

A few key things to remember are listed below, but remember that it is your responsibility to utilize tools such as the JHA and communication with supervisors to assure safe operations.

- All surface materials and working equipment should be located in such a manner to mitigate hazards; remove, relocate, support and use barricades as appropriate
- Know the location of existing underground lines and obstructions prior to trenching
- Open excavations should have structural ramps, stairways or ladders as appropriate for egress
- Wear a harness when required by the type of excavation; when unsure of the requirements do not enter the excavation without verification of the requirements
- When the stability of the structure is endangered, support systems must be installed to assure safety while working in the trench
- All trenches must be inspected daily; conditions can change due to weather or progression of work and this may affect or change the safety requirements for working in the trench
- 4 feet deep (or more) requires that trenches be tested for hazardous atmospheres prior to entering
- ANY excavation over 4 feet deep must be properly shored, shielded, sloped or stepped in any area where work is occurring

In addition to these requirements, standard and any specialty PPE should always be worn to assure employee safety. All employees entering trenches should be trained in these specific work environments and procedures. Most importantly, ALWAYS watch out for coworkers and if any safety condition in the excavation seems questionable, immediately give warning and excavate the trench and report the situation to supervision.



### From our leaders...

For me, the most important reason to be safe and to look out for fellow coworkers is so that we all go home the same way we came to work. It doesn't matter if you are going home to your spouse, kids or even your pets, we all have someone that looks forward to us coming home and relies on us. If we are injured at work, it not only impacts our ability to support our family, but it also impacts our quality of life. Follow safety protocols and look out for your coworkers to make sure we all get to spend quality time with our loved ones.

- Jay Logan,  
Senior Superintendent



At the Rail Logistics project in Mont Belvieu, Texas existing track was demolished and a new #15 Turnout was installed.

# Years of Service

**5 YEARS**

Jose Vargas • Henri Climaco • Jose San Roman •  
J. Refujio Moreno

**10 YEARS**

Leobardo Ramirez • Jose Hernandez •  
Salvador Araujo

**20 YEARS**

Cliff Atteberry • Joaquin Gonzalez

# Milestones



Geoff Pospisil addresses the project team at the Webster PCV Project at the safety luncheon that celebrated a 300,000 safe work hour milestone. Gift cards were distributed to the project team as a thank you for their contribution in making this amazing achievement possible.



German Reyes volunteered to lead the morning stretch and flex for the Rail Logix project! Thank you for stepping up to be a leader and getting the day started right!



The crew at the Gulf State Toyota project took a few extra minutes to update their JHA to include the hazards of asphalt removal.



**Cemex Balcones**

**UP Bloomington Siding**

**Vulcan Medina**

**L'hoist LaPorte Asphalt**

**Taylor Rodeo**

**UP Brazoria Siding**

**CenterPoint Blue Substation**

**Hanson Jersey Village Site**

**Bullinger Creek Section 1**

**Job safety isn't just following the rules...**

**It's being involved and proactive!**

Jersey Village L'hoist Yard project crews were recognized for their completion of the project with ZERO incidents! Thank you to Jgerardo Andrade and the crews for the excellent example of safe project execution!

**Zero Accidents is Our Goal!**