

WORKER FATALITY DURING TRENCH BOX DISMANTLING

Description:

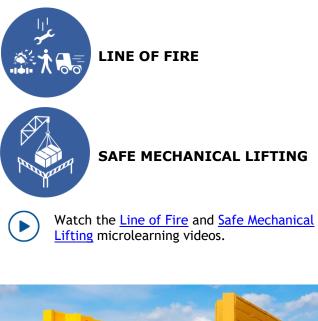
A work crew was on location to dismantle a high arch trench box and then transport the disassembled box from one project work site to another. The disassembly process did not follow the manufacturer's instructions for the safe removal of the strut support pins holding the box together. Consequently, when the last strut support pin was removed from the box, it collapsed, causing a support arch to strike and fatally injure a worker.

Lessons Learned:

Trench boxes are a protective system used to protect workers from the pressure and weight of soil in the event of a cave-in. It is critical to ensure that processes are followed to prevent unexpected movement of trench box panels which can cause serious harm or death. Not all trench boxes are the same - identify and know the specifications for the equipment that is being used.

Life Saving Rules:

This safety alert relates to the following <u>Life</u> Saving Rules.





Example of a trench box









View of incident site, source: CBC News

What did they learn? What were the recommendations:

- 1. Ensure supervisors, workers and inspectors are trained in the use and inspection of the specific trench box being used. All trench box systems come with assembly, use and disassembly instructions. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- 2. The installation, removal, assembly and disassembly of any trench box must only be done by a competent and qualified person(s) including workers, supervisors and inspectors.
- 3. Never stand in the line of fire. Ensure everyone on site is positioned to avoid moving objects, vehicles, pressure releases and dropped objects.

For more information, see the <u>Trenching and Excavation</u> Fact Sheet by The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Help industry by sharing learnings from an incident. Submit your Safety Alert.

SHARE AND COLLABORATE

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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