



Risk Assessment

IMS Form048
Issue 01 Dated Oct 2020

Operation / Task:	Excavations and Breaking Out	Name of Assessor:	Rhys Milton
Assessment Ref:	RA021	Date of Assessment:	02.01.2024
Persons at Risk:	ASW Employees	Reviewed by	R. Milton
Location / Area:	ASW Health and Safety Assessment 2024	Review date	31.12.2024

Ref	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Pre-Control Risk Rating			Control Measures	Post-Control Risk Rating			Comment
				L	S	LxS		L	S	LxS	
1	Excavations and Breaking Out Ground	Collapse of unsupported sides to excavation	Major, crush or fatal injury	4	5	20	<p>Digging/Penetration Permit to Work system must be implemented and followed. All excavations where people entry is necessary are to be treated as a confined space and be subject to a permit to work.</p> <p>Only trained and competent personnel to perform task and use mechanical digging equipment. 110V equipment to be used at all times.</p> <p>Unless the excavation can be battered to a safe slope, the sides will need supporting to prevent the possibility of collapse (e.g. shoring). Operatives shall not go into unsupported excavations or work ahead of the support.</p> <p>A structural engineer will design temporary support systems, with design details held on site (Temporary Works Register).</p> <p>Any excavation used as a place of work must be inspected: at the start of each shift before work begins; after any event likely to have affected the strength or stability of the excavation; and after any accidental fall of rock, earth or other material. A written report should be made after each inspection.</p> <p>Keep workers separate from moving plant such as excavators. Where this is not possible use safe systems of work to prevent people being struck.</p> <p>Safe means of access to and from excavations must be provided, as must easy means of escape in an emergency.</p>	1	5	5	
		People, Materials and vehicles falling into the excavation.	<p>Death or serious injury by being struck by falling objects</p> <p>Serious or fatal injury could occur if a worker falls.</p>	4	5	20	<p>Rigid barriers must protect the edges of all excavations, where anyone might fall and be injured, or, alternatively, excavations must be securely covered - back filled as soon as practicable.</p> <p>Barriers, or stop blocks, shall be used to stop cranes, dumpers, lorries, tipping vehicles, etc. from manoeuvring too close to the edge of an excavation and endangering its stability.</p> <p>Materials shall be stockpiled a suitable distance clear of the edge of the excavation.</p> <p>Safe means of access to and from excavations must be provided, as must easy means of escape in an emergency.</p> <p>Gangways are often needed for access purposes across excavations. Where persons might fall and be injured, such gangways must be fitted with edge protection.</p> <p>Fence off all excavations in public places to prevent pedestrians and vehicles falling into them.</p>	1	5	5	



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				L	S	LxS		L	S	LxS	
		Undermining nearby structures.	Operatives and others sustaining fatal or severe crush injuries due to collapse of structures.	4	5	20	Precautions will be taken to ensure that excavations do not affect the footings of scaffolds or the foundations of nearby structures. Walls may have very shallow foundations that can be undermined by even small trenches. Structural survey of nearby items may be required in some cases – contact your Supervisor for further advise if unsure.	1	5	5	
		Contact with Underground Services (Electricity/ Water/ Gas)	Major or fatal injury: Electric shock, explosion, fire from ruptured gas pipe or power cable Water ingress from ruptured water pipe Serious or fatal injury could occur if a worker falls.	4	5	20	Refer to RA 20 Electricity including Buried Power cables. Digging/Penetration Permit to Work system must be implemented and followed. Only trained and competent personnel to perform task. Obtain existing plans/surveys/drawings to establish location of underground power cables. CAT Scan area and mark out areas of concern. Buried services should be uncovered by hand-digging. Continue to CAT scan at different depts. Exposed services should be identified and clearly labelled. Support if necessary. Digging with mechanical equipment can commence once above completed. Safe means of access to and from excavations must be provided, as must easy means of escape in an emergency.	1	5	5	
		Contaminated ground fumes and gases.	Onset of chronic and fatal diseases can occur long after the original exposure	4	5	20	Plant and equipment should not be left idling close to excavations creating fumes hazard. If suspected as contaminated, a ground investigation survey will be undertaken, and the recommended control measures will be implemented. Appropriate PPE to be worn and where necessary extra precautions should be taken (i.e. RPE and protective clothing).	1	5	5	

<u>Likelihood</u>	<u>Severity</u>	<u>Risk factor (Likelihood x Severity)</u>	
1 = Highly unlikely	1 = Insignificant	High Risk = 15-25	Unacceptable Risk. If Post Control risk, work must not commence.
2 = Unlikely	2 = Injury (first aid, no lost time)	Medium Risk = 8-12	If Post Control risk, high level of discipline required & monitoring to consider further controls where possible
3 = Possible	3 = Lost time injury	Low Risk = 1-6	Acceptable Risk assuming all controls in place effectively and workforce aware
4 = Probable	4 = Major injury / disabling condition		
5 = Inevitable	5 = Fatality		



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I have read and understand the requirements of this risk assessment.		
Name	Signature	Date