

# Safety Newsletter

April 2012

**This Month's Topic:** Excavations Next to Gas Pipelines

## Excavation Safety Manual

-Refer to the PG&E Excavation Safety Manual as needed when working below ground. The contents of this manual meet or exceed state and federal safety requirements.

## PG&E Standards and Work Procedures to Review

- S4412-Preventing Damage to Underground Facilities
- WP4412-04-Field Meets and Standby-Damage Prevention
- WP4412-05-Excavation Procedures for Damage Prevention
- WP4412-05-Attachment 1
- WP4412-05-Attachement 2

## Shoring

-Shoring, benching, or sloping is always required if either of the following conditions exists: (1) The sides of the excavation are unstable and the work cannot be performed safely. (2) The excavation is a minimum of 4 feet deep for PG&E and 5 feet per Cal/OSHA, and someone will enter the excavation.

- When shoring is required, keep a written record (log) of all safety inspections.
- Never use shore bracing to climb in or out of excavation; ladders must be held or secured.

## Competent Person

-A competent person is one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees and who has authorization to take prompt, corrective measures to eliminate them.

-A competent person has two required attributes: (1) Knowledge of standards, soil classifications, protective systems, etc. (2) Authority.

-A competent person must inspect the excavation; the adjacent areas; and the shoring, benching, or sloping system(s): (1) At the end of each work shift; (2) After every rain storm or other hazard-increasing occurrence; (3) As needed throughout the shift.

## Careful planning essential

-Safety is the primary job requirement. Careful work planning provides for both safety and efficiency. Good planning also ensures that there is time to obtain engineering support should the worksite present special conditions that require non standard work methods.



## Remember...

Lax attitudes regarding basic safety rules and regulations, or disregard of safety requirements and procedures, can result in injuries or fatalities.

Current statistics show approximately 1 death and 4 injuries per week in the United States due to cave-ins.

The fatality rate among persons doing trenching work is about 112% higher than the rate for general construction work.



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*"Make sure that all excavations are safe before anyone enters them. Properly installed shoring and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are an absolute must. Stay Safe!"*

-Ken Burke, Alisto Construction Manager