



GEORGIA
American Society
of Safety Engineers

TRENCH SAFETY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

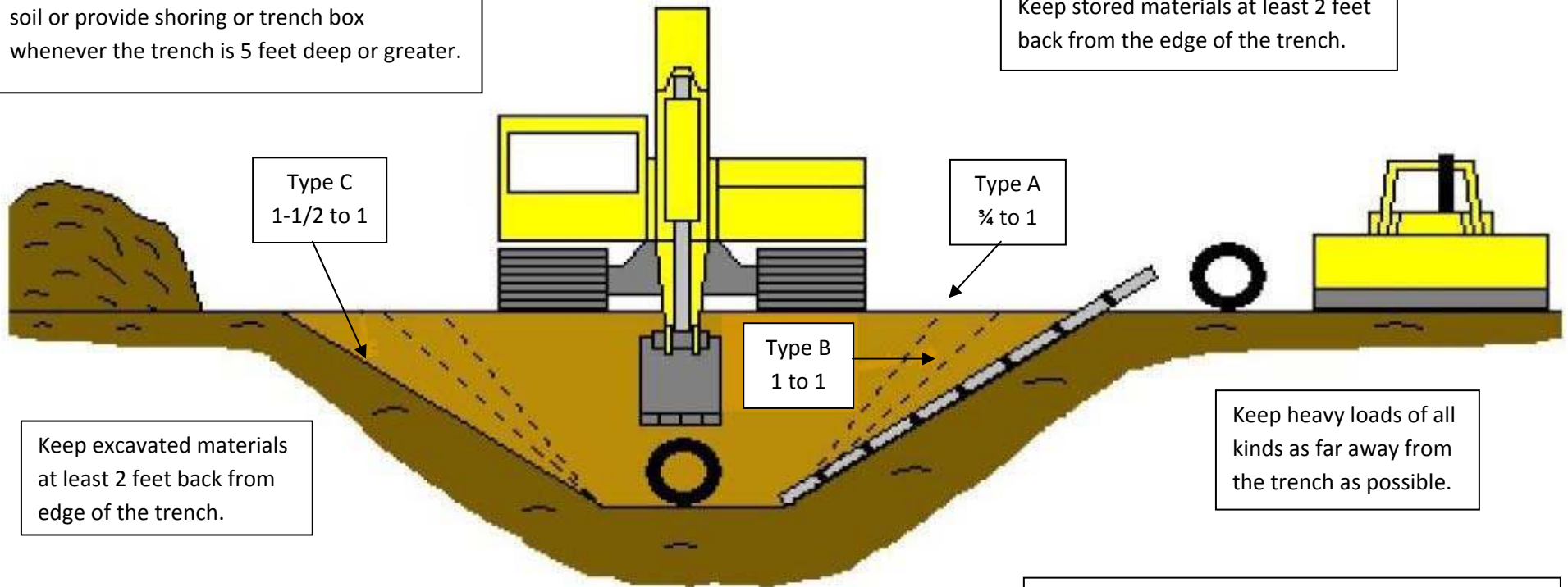
Analyze soil to determine soil type. If you are not sure of soil type, assume it is Type C

Increase the slope of trenches that are exposed to vibrations of construction equipment, construction operations, traffic, etc.

Slope trench sides appropriate to the type of soil or provide shoring or trench box whenever the trench is 5 feet deep or greater.

Call before you dig. Locate all underground utilities prior to digging.

Keep stored materials at least 2 feet back from the edge of the trench.



Keep excavated materials at least 2 feet back from edge of the trench.

Keep heavy loads of all kinds as far away from the trench as possible.

Don't allow water to accumulate in the trench.

Professional engineering is required for trenches 20 feet deep or deeper

Provide ladder, steps, or ramp within 25 feet of travel from anywhere in the trench when it is 4 feet deep or greater.

A person of authority, who has completed trench safety training must be present at all times while trench work is occurring to inspect for existing or potential hazards and ensure prevention or correction of said hazards. All workers involved with the trench work must also be trained to recognize existing or potential hazards and informed of how to protect themselves from cave-ins.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.GEORGIA.ASSE.ORG

WORKSITE ASSESSMENT			
An answer of “NO” to any of the questions below will require the appropriate preventative action.	YES		NO
Is there a competent person in charge of trench work?			
Has an emergency action plan been established?			
Has the soil type been determined by a competent person?			
Is the protective system appropriate to the type of soil present?			
Does the trench box (if used) extend at least 18” above the top of the trench?			
Does the trench box (if used) rest at the bottom or within 2’ from the bottom of the trench?			
Is the trench free of the vibrations of construction equipment, construction operations, traffic, etc.?			
Have work zone safety issues (e.g. traffic control, high visibility reflective vests) been addressed for trench work near roads?			
Is the trench properly barricaded?			
Are stored materials, including excavated materials, kept at least 2’ back from the edge of the trench?			
Are heavy loads of all kinds kept as far away from the trench as possible?			
Are adjacent structures stabilized to prevent collapse?			
Have all underground utilities been located prior to digging?			
Is the trench free of water?			
Has a registered professional engineer designed any trench 20’ deep or deeper?			
Is the trench free of any operations that might create a hazardous atmosphere?			
Are surface crossings (if required) the proper width and fitted with handrails?			
Have workers completed the appropriate trench safety training?			
Is the trench inspected and documented daily?			

TRENCH SAFETY RESOURCES		
UTILITIES LOCATE GA Utilities Protection Center (800) 282-7411 www.gaupc.com	WEATHER National Weather Service (770) 486-8834 www.nws.noaa.gov	SAFETY TRAINING/CONSULTING Associated General Contractors – GA Branch (678) 298-4100 www.agc.org
UTILITIES LICENSING BOARD Utilities Division of Construction Industry Licensing Board (912) 207-1416 www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/	PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS GA Engineering Alliance (404) 521-2324 www.gaengineers.org	Construction Safety Consultants (770) 642-6203 Emergency Unlimited, Inc (770) 389-1008 www.emergencyunlimited.com
OSHA OSHA Atlanta East (770) 493-6644 www.osha.gov	SAFETY EQUIPMENT Aluma Systems (404) 699-0979 AT-Pac (770) 592-9663	GA Tech Consultation Program (404) 407-8276 www.oshainfo.gatech.edu
OSHA Atlanta West (770) 984-8700 www.osha.gov	Atlanta Equipment (770) 306-1123	GA Tech OSHA Training Institute (404) 407-7024 www.oshainfo.gatech.edu
OSHA Savannah (912) 652-4393 www.osha.gov	Atlanta Equipment & Surplus, Inc (770) 531-0089 Conesco Doka, Ltd (888) 618-4700	H B Training & Consulting (770) 619-1669 www.hbtraining.com
TRADE ORGANIZATIONS American Council of Engineering Companies of GA (404) 521-2324 www.acecga.org	Crenshaw Supply Company (404) 691-1944 Georgia Retaining Walls & Shoring Inc (770) 206-0083	GA Utilities Contractors Association (404) 362-9995 www.guca.com
American Society of Safety Engineers – GA Chapter www.georgia.asse.org	Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc (770) 964-8280	National Safety Council (770) 457-5100 www.nsc.org
Associated Builders & Contractors – GA Branch (770) 587-0955 www.abcgga.org	Micro Construction Products, Inc (770) 753-4307	Pritchard Safety (770) 289-2324 www.prichardsafety.com
Associated General Contractors – GA Branch (678) 298-4100 www.agc.org	MPS Rents (678) 888-0333	PROSAFE Solutions (770) 459-2745 www.prosafesolutions.com
Atlanta Electrical Contractors Association (770) 454-6400 www.atlantaelectrical.org	Patent Construction Systems (404) 363-1061	Risk Consultants, Inc (770) 964-1226 www.rickcon.com
GA Utilities Contractors Association (404) 362-9995 www.guca.com	S & S Laser Sales (770) 389-3966	SafetyHead Training & Services, LLC (912) 966-9858 www.safetyhead.com
National Association of Minority Contractors – GA Chapter (404) 688-6996	Trench Shoring Services, Inc (404) 505-0510	Scheffer Engineering Company (770) 306-5050 www.schefferengineering.com
National Safety Council – GA Chapter (770) 457-5100 www.nsc.org	United Rentals Trench Safety (800) 783-7763 SAFETY TRAINING/CONSULTING Associated Builders & Contractors – GA Branch (770) 587-0955 www.abcgga.org	SOL Construction LLC (404) 259-4654 www.solconstructionllc.com
		Trench Shoring Services, Inc (404) 505-0510

* Our loss prevention service is advisory only. We assume no responsibility for management or control of contractor's safety activities or for implementation of recommended safety measures. This document is based on current best work practices and trench safety resources at the time of the visit. We do not ensure identification of all hazards, nor do we warrant that requirements of any federal state, or local law, regulation or ordinance have or have not been met. The Trench Safety Resources are a comprehensive reference, arranged alphabetically, from which you may select companies or organizations to address your specific trench safety needs. We do not endorse any company or organization over another nor do we warrant services rendered. We have attempted to identify all local resources, but additional may be added, upon notification prior to next update.

REVISED: 2/11/09