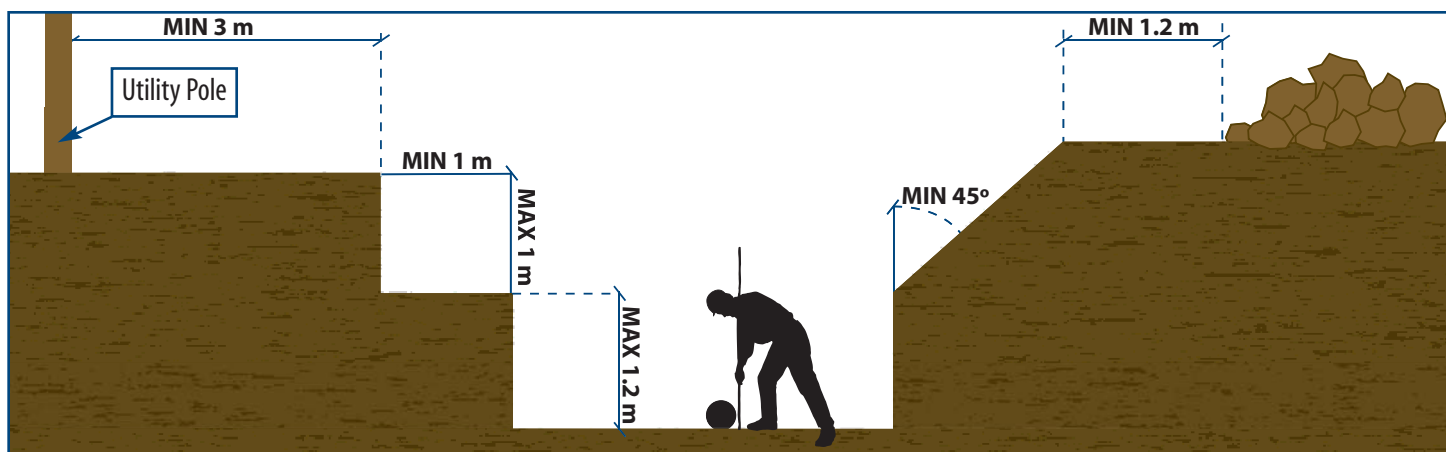


HAZARD ALERT

NEW BRUNSWICK WORKER BURIED ALIVE



An employee was placing drainpipe at the bottom of a trench that was 1.8 metres deep and 2 metres wide when a cave-in occurred, with fatal results. The trench was dug in ground made up of topsoil, grey silt and imported dirt.

On the day of the accident, there were three cave-ins at the site, with no injuries. Each time, the owner of the company used an excavator to re-dig the trench so work could continue.

Concerned for the employee in the trench, bystanders advised him to get out of the trench as they felt it was unsafe. A fourth cave-in occurred, burying the victim up to his shoulders.

One of the bystanders and the owner of the company who was supervising the job attempted to rescue the victim. They had partially dug him out and were trying to pull him away from the wall when another section

of the wall caved in on the victim and the owner.

This fifth cave-in completely re-buried the victim, and the owner was buried up to his shoulders. The bystander was able to free the owner up to his belt by the time rescue personnel arrived.

The owner was rescued and taken to the hospital, where he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit.

Rescue personnel later found the victim buried under approximately 2 feet of dirt.

The employee was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The autopsy report revealed that the victim died as a result of severe crushing injuries to the chest from the fourth cave-in.

Recommended Preventive Action

1. NEVER enter a trench that is not safely sloped, braced or caged! If there is a cave-in, even a small one, GET OUT OF THE TRENCH AND STAY OUT OF IT until the trench has been made safe!
2. Excavated material must be kept at least 1.2 metres away from the edge of an excavation or trench.
3. Loose material that may fall into the excavation or trench must be removed.
4. When heavy equipment is used next to an excavation or trench, shoring, bracing or caging must be adequate to support the added pressure and weight of the equipment.

See sections 180 to 188 of *General Regulation 91-191*, under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, for more information about excavations and trenches.