



Excavations

A. Hazard

There are many hazardous energy sources located under the ground at various locations at Newport News Shipbuilding. Examples of such energy sources include electricity, steam, radiological concerns, compressed air and other gases. Other materials and equipment are located under the ground, which if disturbed could cause significant expense, and down time for both the contractor and NNS. Because of the magnitude of NNS operations, the potential for such personal injury and/or facility damage is very great.

B. Regulations and NNS References

1. Contractors shall follow all requirements of 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P. – Excavations.
2. OSHA requires an employer to ascertain by appropriate means the nature and location of any energized circuits in the area before excavation, etc. work is begun. See 29 CFR 1926.416(a). It is the intent of NNS to require that such information is provided to contractors. By OSHA policy, it is the responsibility of each contractor whose employees may be exposed to these type hazards to ensure that such information is obtained and maintained current and accurate for the duration of any of this type work.
3. The requirements listed here are taken from NNS Procedure SSP F-1004, *Intrusive Earthwork on Newport News Shipbuilding Property* which is the primary NNS reference. These requirements will be updated as necessary when this primary reference is changed.

C. Requirements

1. Any contractor who may be involved with any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise purposely displaced by means of any tools or equipment must not proceed until the nature of possible underground utilities, etc., is determined. Examples of disturbance includes without limitations:
 - a. Intrusive concrete penetration,
 - b. Saw cutting,
 - c. Grading,
 - d. Trenching,
 - e. Digging,
 - f. Ditching,
 - g. Drilling,
 - h. Tunneling,



- i. Scraping,
 - j. Driving-(such as installing electrical ground rods or foundation piling),
 - k. Augering-(such as soil boring and installing trailer storm anchors),
 - l. Moving or removing any structure or mass of material.
2. Contractors whose personnel may be exposed to these type activities shall take the following steps:
 - a. Work with the appropriate NNS Contractor Coordinator to secure an excavation permit
 - b. Mark or map the area to identify each location to be disturbed,
 - c. Not start operations until the permit is secured and posted at the site.
 - d. Cease or not start operations if, in the judgement of the contractor, the excavation permit is inadequate or incomplete,
 - e. Ensure all personnel at the excavation site have received and understand any special instructions prior to digging,
 - f. Use a spotter if heavy excavation machinery is used at the excavation site. A spotter is a person assigned by the Excavation Foreman to observe digging performed by heavy machinery and to alert the operator of any potential exposure to utility lines.
 - g. All personnel know the proper procedures to follow if utility signs are discovered or damaged during the digging process,
 - h. Ensure utility markings remain legible throughout the excavation process and must be remarked in the event markings are removed,
 - i. Stop all excavations (digging) at the site, and informs the appropriate Contract Coordinator that an obstruction or utility line has been discovered that is not on the GIMMS Map, Site Sketch, or Markings.
 - j. Ensure that the permit is reissued at least every 35 calendar days for as long as the excavation operations continue.
3. In some areas of the shipyard, additional controls are required due to the potential presence of asbestos or other hazardous materials in the excavation area. In these cases your Contractor Coordinator will advise you on permissible and prohibited activities. Where necessary, a third party contractor will be utilized to ensure that environmental and industrial hygiene concerns are controlled and/or abated.

D. Contractor's Soil Storage Requirements

Contractors shall follow the requirements for properly storing excavation soil that is stored at an excavation site on NNS property:

1. Store the soil stockpile in the designated staging area and use the containment method selected by the NNS Contractor Coordinator or Project Coordinator.
2. Ensure the staging area is protected as follows:

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- a. If the staging area is on a permeable site, such as dirt or gravel, a plastic or polyurethane tarp under the stockpile is required.
 - b. If the staging area is not on permeable soil, such as cement or asphalt then a plastic or polyurethane tarp is not required under the stockpile.
3. Ensure a plastic or polyurethane tarp is secured over the stockpile and maintained daily.
4. Ensure any signage posted by the Project Coordinator remains in place.

E. Emergency Protocol

1. If an underground utility has minor or possible damage:
 - a. Stop all digging at the site,
 - b. Inform your Contractor Coordinator of the possible damage to a utility line,
 - c. Do not resume activities until the Contractor Coordinator determines the extent a damage, if any.
 - d. Activities may resume only after cleared by the Contractor Coordinator.
2. If an underground utility is damaged, severed, arcing, or leaking:
 - a. Stop all digging activities and take immediate action to safeguard life, health and property.
 - b. Call the Communication Center:
 - 1) From a cell phone – (757) 380-2222
 - 2) From a shipyard phone - *911 or (757) 380-2222
 - c. Notify the appropriate Contractor Coordinator of the emergency.
 - d. Activities may resume only after cleared by the Contract Coordinator.