



# EXCAVATION TRADE HOUSEKEEPING SAFETY TOOLBOX TALK

## OVERVIEW

Good housekeeping on any project creates a positive atmosphere and a productive work environment.

- Poor housekeeping on any project creates a negative atmosphere regarded as disorganized and less productive, which can create an environment that contributes to injury and safety incidents.
- Housekeeping is more than sweeping and filling trash cans. It is where there is an expectation by all associated with a project that material and equipment storage and trade workspaces are designated, organized, and cleaned for efficiency.
- All trade partners will contribute to a clean workspace and place trash and recyclables into a designated area.
- **Protect yourself and your coworkers!**

## LEARN AND APPLY THE FOLLOWING

### Why Maintain Proper Housekeeping?

Work sites with poor housekeeping can create various accidents, such as:

- Slips, trips, and falls from stepping on or over trash and material.
- Slips, trips, and falls on wet, greasy, or dirty surfaces.
- Fire exposure is raised by having flammable material and trash in the workspace.
- It is easier to exit the building during an emergency.

### Benefits of Good Housekeeping

- Ease the flow of transferring materials
- A better organization with materials and supplies
- Increased production
- Reduce Injury and incident exposure
- Decrease exposure to airborne contaminants like dust

### Housekeeping Practices

- Clean as you work daily
- Proper waste and recycling disposal
- Dispose of or remove unused tools and materials
- Practice just-in-time delivery for smaller-sized projects
- Schedule work with project contractors when access to the building will be changed or closed
- Keep the work area delineated so other trades are not entering the equipment operation area.
- Plan the layout of your site and work area for worker efficiency.
- Material organization and flow, continuous cleanup.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What should you inspect, verify, or correct at the "start of the day."

What are some key takeaways for Housekeeping Safety?

Are there General Contractor or Building Owner specific rules that apply to Excavations Trade–Housekeeping Safety above OSHA standards?

Figure 1 A Cleared Workspace



Figure 2 Let's All Work Together



**Meeting Date:**

**Supervisor:**

**Employee Name:**




## EXCAVATION TRADE EXCAVATOR UPSIDE DOWN

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

A building was under construction on a sloping property. This was one project but with two CM/GCs.

### EXCAVATOR UPSIDE DOWN INCIDENT

**When the project was in the Site Work phase of excavation, the excavation contractor was tasked with exposing the soldier pilings placed for the foundation.**

- The excavator operator created his path off the flat landing zone, down the slope, to create the next phase of the concrete foundation.

**The excavator operator was creating a benched zone on the way back up the slope.**

- When he finished the last bench, he turned the excavator uphill to make his way up.
- When he fully crowded the boom, he reached out with the boom for another bite. This position would have had him on a flat landing zone.

**As the excavator operator started to extend the boom up and out, all he could see ahead was the hood of a concrete delivery truck.**

- The excavation contractor was not informed the concrete trucks would be in the landing zone that day.
- Being on loose soil on a steep slope, the operator had nowhere to dig the bucket in except where the concrete truck was sitting.
- To avoid the truck, the operator started to rotate the excavator to push it up and not slide into the benches he created. As the operator rotated the excavator, it tipped over.
- It came to rest on the soldier piling, stopping him in half of a roll, as shown in **Fig 1**.

**The operator was seat-belted in and was not injured.**

- The excavator had slight damage. A large excavator was brought on to retrieve the excavator.

**Actual Loss:** approximately \$50K

### LESSONS LEARNED

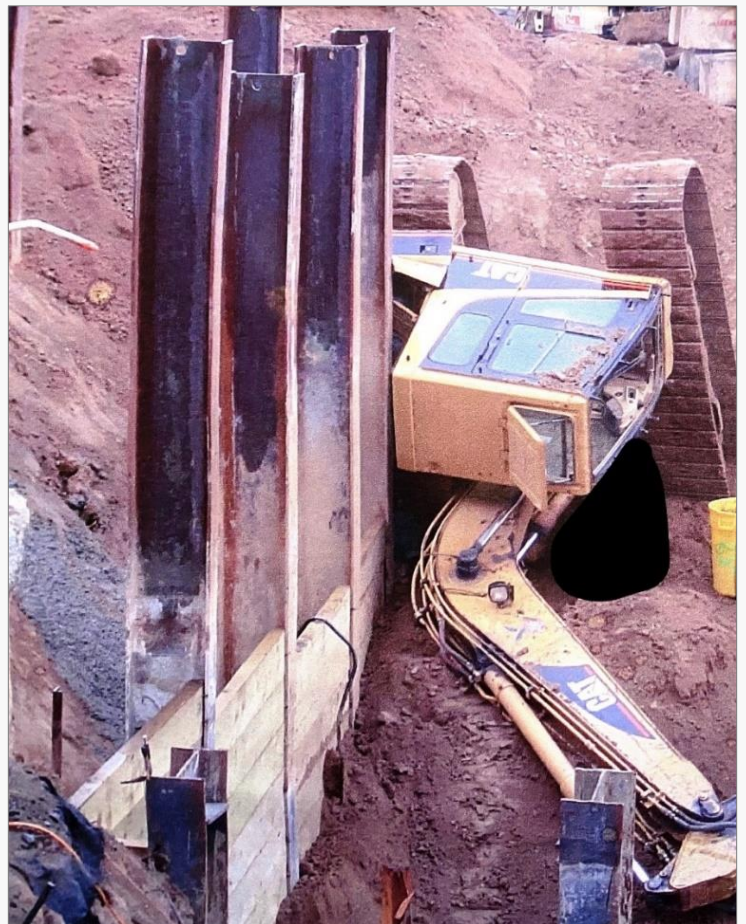
**Communication is crucial on all construction sites.**

- When two CM/GCs are working closely together, communication between them is most important.
- The excavation contractor was not told the concrete trucks would be in the landing zone that day.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you always wear your seatbelt? If yes, why? If not, why? Does your equipment require a seatbelt to be worn?
2. What special hazards do we have on-site during this type of operation?
3. Are there other activities in the same area scheduled at the same time?
4. Has a meeting been held with other contractors working on-site simultaneously?

**Fig 1. Excavator Upside Down**



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