



**Spartanburg County
Office of Emergency Services**

Trench Collapse

Checklist for First Responders

Objectives: Assess scene, Control hazards, Rescue victim(s), Evacuate victims from scene.

- Initial On-scene report**
- Establish Command
- Turn off vehicle
- Assess the scene
- Establish staging area (min 250' away)
- Perform an outer circle check:
 - Eliminate source of vibration within 500 feet
 - Stop vehicular traffic within 500 feet
- Size-up Report**
- What happened?
- What is the access?
- Is it a trench? Deeper than it is wide? More than 5 feet deep?
- Number of victims?
- Condition of the victim(s)
- How are they trapped, stuck?
- What shape of trench is it?
- Initial Actions**
- Isolate and deny entry
 - Establish a secure 100-foot perimeter around collapse site
- Determine best/safest access
- Control hazards
- Lock-Out/Tag-Out
- Protect patient when possible
- Mark hot/warm/cold zones
- Approach trench cautiously from ends to conduct recon and/or to make contact with victim(s).
- Is there a protective system (shoring box or shores) currently in place that has not been compromised?

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- If the victim is trapped, pinned or unable to self-rescue in an unprotected trench:
 - Immediate Stop: Further actions require Technical Rescue Team**
 - Signs of imminent secondary collapse:
 - Large cracks
 - Visual movement, running or loose soil
 - Leaning walls or corners

General Reminders

- Calm and reassure victims
- Support self-rescue.

Common Trench Shapes

“L”, “T”, “I”