



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Excavations: Ground Level Hazards Safety Message

Most people are mindful that work taking place inside an excavation can be extremely dangerous. Cave-ins, striking an underground utility line, or being exposed to a hazardous atmosphere are just a few of the potential hazards that could injure someone working within an excavation. However, there are many hazards located on or above the surface of the earth at excavation sites that could harm workers as well.

1. Always look above where you will be digging to see if there are any electrical lines hanging overhead.
2. Identify any encumbrances present on the surface that could present a potential safety hazard once excavation begins.
3. Always make sure you and your co-workers are easily seen by equipment operators and vehicle drivers in the area.
4. Keep your distance from excavation equipment.
5. Avoid standing next to any trailers, dump beds, or roll-off containers as they are being loaded or unloaded.
6. Never stand or walk on any sidewalk, slab, or foundation where the soil beneath has been excavated.

While these are not the only above-ground hazards to avoid on trenching and excavation sites, they do represent some common causes of worker injuries and deaths. So keep these tips in mind.