



## Excavations

**Only enter excavations when it is safe to do so. Excavations can cause serious injury in the event of collapse.**

- All excavations must be risk assessed by a competent person. Where entry is required, an inspection must be completed daily and recorded on a AF3.
- Lower risk excavations (where the risk assessment determines that there is a low degree of risk of harm), from 1.25m to 3m deep, a TWC should, using a design brief, assess the type of temporary works required (proprietary trench support system, battering, stepping of excavation sides etc).
- Higher risk excavations of any depth (where the risk assessment determines that there poses a greater degree of risk of harm) and all excavations >3m deep, a TWD should, using a design brief, assess the type of temporary works required and issue a site-specific temporary work design, where required.
- A permit to excavate/dig must be in place and approved by the PSCS, before dig commences.
- The use of any non-proprietary excavation supports including struts or bracing must be certified by a TWD.
- Safe and unobstructed access and egress must be provided at all times.
- Where trench support has been installed, works must only be carried out within the confines of this trench support.
- Where there is a risk of persons falling into an excavation it must be fenced or securely covered.
- Protect excavations against unauthorised access, storage of materials, spoil, plant, equipment, and deliveries.
- No excavations should be left open overnight in publicly accessible areas.



**S | A | F | E**

**Stop and Think** 'What are the hazards in this scenario?' 'What could go wrong?'

**Assess** the task, the work area, and the equipment.

**Follow** the procedures, protocols, and method statement.

**Engage** with your supervisor if an aspect of the task changes and requires deviation from the plan.

Rev 2. Golden Rules

This list is non exhaustive and should be followed in addition to the PSCS's standard operating procedure. Further detail can also be found in section 6.5.14 of PS-HS-PR-029.