Chapter 11: Excavation Safety

Quick Start Summary

Who needs to know about these requirements

The requirements of Excavation Safety apply to all personnel engaged in excavations (including ground disturbance activities) at SLAC that meet any of the following conditions, at any time: 1) depth is one foot or more; 2) power tools will be used; 3) utilities are identified; 4) soil will be disturbed as a result of asphalt and/or concrete removal; and 5) any hazardous condition is likely to be encountered. The requirements do not apply to 1) sampling soil, concrete, and asphalt from bins, hoppers, or stockpiles using hand tools; 2) replacing existing sign posts in and around SLAC roads, parking areas, and pathways, provided sleeves are used.

Why

Among the hazards that may be encountered are unidentified utilities, structural instability, and contact with materials affected by chemicals or radiation.

What do I need to know

- A permit must be obtained for excavations covered by this program.
- All utilities in the area must be located and marked before excavating (and de-energized/de-pressurized and locked and tagged unless approved by the Facilities and Operations division director). If the excavation will be within three feet of a utility, the exact location (horizontal and vertical position and depth below surface) of the utility must be determined by potholing. Use of heavy machinery is not allowed within an exclusion zone (the width of the utility plus 18 inches in all directions) around a known utility. Mark-ups of plans and drawings documenting as-built conditions must be submitted.
- Physical requirements (for example, shoring, traffic control, oxygen deficiency, and access/egress) must be met.
- An excavation competent person must be present during active excavations and inspect them daily.

When

These requirements take effect 23 June 2021.

Where do I find more information

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 11, “Excavation Safety”
- Or contact the program manager