

Good Morning South Carolina Employers,

Below is helpful information regarding the updated [NEP](#) on preventing trenching and excavation collapses and available compliance assistance resources.

OSHA issued a [press release](#) announcing that it has updated the National Emphasis Program (NEP) on preventing trenching and excavation collapses in response to a recent spike in trenching fatalities. The [NEP](#) will increase education and enforcement efforts. The program began on October 1, 2018 with a three-month period of education and prevention outreach. During this period, OSHA will continue to respond to complaints, referrals, hospitalizations, and fatalities. OSHA-approved State Plans are expected to have enforcement procedures that are at least as effective as those in this NEP.

OSHA has a number of compliance assistance materials to help, including:

- Audio public service announcements recorded by U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that highlight effective ways to stay safe when working around trenches and excavations.
- A 45-second video, "[5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe](#)," which also highlights well-known and proven safety measures that can eliminate hazards and prevent worker injuries.
- An updated [trenching operations QuickCard](#) provides information on protecting workers around trenches, including daily inspections, and trench wall safety.
- OSHA's revised "[Protect Workers in Trenches](#)" poster provides a quick reminder of the three ways to prevent dangerous trench collapses: SLOPE or bench trench walls, SHORE trench walls with supports, or SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes. The poster is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- An updated [trenching and excavation webpage](#) provides additional information on trenching hazards and solutions.

Thank you for your commitment to safety and health.

South Carolina OSHA