



CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY
EXCAVATION SAFETY:
SAFEGUARDS &
REMINDERS

ISSUE: 2024-004

08.26.24

PROPER EXCAVATION
PROCEDURES DURING
CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

WHAT YOU SHOULD YOU KNOW. . .

Excavation work is to be performed pursuant to the requirements of the approved Support of Excavation (SOE) drawings and the NYC Construction Codes. All required safeguards indicated in **Chapter 33 of the NYC Building Code** shall be performed and adhered to during construction operations. Failure to properly follow the Construction Codes and the project specific construction requirements could lead to potential damage of property and may also put the public and construction personnel at risk.

DID YOU KNOW...

A cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a car! That is approximately 3,000 lbs.



WHAT CONTRACTORS SHOULD DO. . .

- Provide proper notifications to the Department, including **811 Call Before You Dig** confirmations at all street frontages. (BC 3304.3.1) In addition, adjoining property notifications and additional agency notifications may be required, i.e., TA/MTA, PANYNJ, DEP, DEC, etc. (BC 3304.3.2, BC 3304.3.3, BC 3304.3.4, BC 3304.3.5)
- Provide accurate locations and protection of all service lines and utilities that may be encountered during excavation work. Dig by hand where needed to avoid disturbance of utilities prior to using mechanical equipment. (BC 3304.9, BC 3303.2)
- Follow the approved and permitted SOE construction documents. **DO NOT** deviate from these documents without contacting the Applicant of Record (PE/RA) for additional information. (BC 3304.4.1)
- Follow the sequence of excavation operations for the installation and removal of the SOE system. It is imperative the sequence of work be followed as per the permitted construction documents. (BC 3304.4.1.1)



- Perform project specific monitoring as per the project monitoring plan developed by the registered design professional. Note that monitoring can change with different phases of work. (BC 3309.4.4, BC 3309.16)
- Conduct the required Special Inspections as indicated for the scope of work (BC 1705.25, BC 1705.25.3 and 1705.25.4)
- Perform a pre-construction survey prior to the start of work. (BC 3309.4.3)
- Follow the project-approved site safety plan when applicable. (BC 3301.13.1, BC 3310.3)
- Maintain a proper Code-required construction fence to protect the public. (BC 3307.7)
- Notify the Department of any construction-related incident. (BC 3301.8)
- **DO NOT** perform an excavation without proper SOE, i.e., open shear cut. (BC 3304.4)
- **DO NOT** store excavated soil spoils, materials, or operate construction vehicles directly adjacent to an excavation unless the permitted documents indicate to do so. (BC 3304.4.5)



REMINDER...

- For additional minimum requirements refer to Chapter 33 of the NYC Building Code.
 - Contact the Department's Construction Safety Enforcement Unit with questions.
-
- Always maintain at least one proper means of ingress and egress to and from the excavated area. (BC 3304.7)
 - All open edges of an excavation deeper than 6 feet shall be protected by a guardrail system. (BC 3304.4.4)
 - Maintain proper drainage. (BC 3303.14.3)
 - Inspect the excavation and support of excavation for signs of distress after weather related events. The Department advises property owners, contractors, and crane operators to take precautionary measures during extreme weather. To receive DOB weather advisories please visit nyc.gov/dob-wa.
 - If an extremely hazardous condition is observed call 911.