

Location: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C236: TRENCHERS

Introduction: Trenchers are the fastest way to dig a relatively shallow, narrow trench. However, because of the trenchers speed and their method of excavating, they pose many hazards. Accidents can occur when operating a trencher resulting in electrical shock or electrocution, amputation, and death. By following these safety rules, you will greatly reduce these hazards.

Before operating a trencher: Always check for underground utilities before digging, call utility locators and the utility company at least 48 hours before beginning an excavation so they can mark these hazards

- Read the operators manual. Be sure you're trained to operate the machine, and are familiar with all controls, design limits and operating characteristics of the machine
- Inspect your trencher for loose, missing or broken parts, and fluid leaks. Make sure all of the safety devices are in place and operable
- Don't fuel the machine unless the engine is stopped and cool
- Dress properly for the job; wear safety boots, hardhat, gloves and eye protection. Don't wear loose clothing
- Be aware that hydraulic oil is hot and under extreme pressure and can be forced under your skin causing burns and severe injury. Use a piece of wood or cardboard to check for pinhole hydraulic leaks while the machine is running

Operating the trencher:

- Use hand and foot holds when you're mounting or dismounting a riding trencher; Check the controls and verify that they are in the neutral or "off" position before you start the machine
- Use your seat belt and adjust the seat to a comfortable position. Never allow riders on the trencher
- Start and operate trenchers only from the operator's seat; notify everyone near the trencher before you start the machine; Lower the trencher boom to within a few inches of the soil before engaging the chain. Engage the chain at a slow speed, lower the boom slowly and steadily to correct digging depth
- Keep all of your body parts clear of the digging chain and augers. Never attempt to adjust or free a jammed chain while the machine is running, stop the engine first
- Use caution while operating on slopes; the machine will want to move downhill and if you apply downward pressure on the boom, the machine may lift off of the ground
- Augers can easily catch someone's feet or loose clothing. NO ONE is allowed in the immediate vicinity of an operating auger.
- No sharp turns while digging, lift the boom out of the ground, make the turn, then resume digging
- When raising the boom, disengage the chain as it clears
- When approaching underground utilities stop the trencher and locate utilities by hand digging, make sure you are well clear of all lines before resuming digging with the machine
- When shutting down the machine, lower boom and all implements to the ground, stop engine, and cycle all hydraulic controls to relieve any pressure in lines
- No machine left unattended while the engine is running
- Operate your trencher only in well ventilated areas; exhaust fumes can be deadly

Conclusion: Trenchers use a chain to cut soil on the same principle as a chain saw cutting wood. Trenchers will easily cut through most utility lines and pipes, as well as any body parts that make contact with the chain.

Employee Attendance:(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.