Everyday Safety

Tailgate Talks

In conjunction with the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association

Drain Pipe Installation

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

* Before any excavation takes place, initiate Nebraska 811 (call811.com/map-page/nebraska) to ensure all utility lines are marked at least two business days in advance of planned excavation.
* Draft a temporary traffic control plan. Include space for parking and staging in the work zone plan to prevent constraints on work being done.
* Delegate staff and sign resources to set-up, maintenance and tear-down of temporary traffic control for the duration of the project.
* Schedule equipment to be used on the job site for routine maintenance. Review safe operating procedures for equipment to be used with operators.
* Trench collapses are a major cause of injury and death. Update personnel on current OSHA standards and safety precautions for excavation and trenching.
* Transport equipment to and from the site securely in accordance with carrier laws.

ON SITE: IN THE CAB

* Wear appropriate personal protective equipment including a Type II or higher high visibility safety vest, a hard hat, hearing protection, gloves, and footwear with protective reinforcement in the toe.
* Assess the site for both overhead and below-ground hazards in each phase of the project.
* Allow ample space for everyone to work safely on-site. Never swing a load over personnel.
* Use clear hand signals with the ground crew.

ON SITE: ON THE GROUND

* Wear appropriate personal protective equipment including a Type II or higher high visibility safety vest, a hard hat, hearing protection, gloves, and footwear with protective reinforcement in the toe. Rubber boots may be useful in wet ditches.
* Employees on foot must use extreme caution and stay clear of operating equipment. Be aware of escape routes in case of emergency. Always establish eye contact with an operator when approaching equipment. Avoid walking and working under suspended loads. Use clear hand signals with equipment operators.
* Be aware of loose materials around the trench, tripping hazards, and uneven ground.
* Use proper lifting techniques. Get help or use a pipe hook, pry bar or other equipment, as necessary.
* When handling and joining pipe, be aware of crushing hazards and pinch points.