



Trench Collapse

Checklist for First Responders

Objectives: Assess scene, Control hazards, Rescue victim(s), Evacuate victims from scene.

- [Announce IOSR]**
- Establish Command
- Assess the scene
- Establish staging area (min 250' away)
- [Announce SUR]**
- What happened?
- What is the access?
- Is it a trench? Deeper than it is wide?
More than 5 feet deep?
- Initial Actions**
 - Isolate and deny entry
 - Determine best/safest access
 - Control hazards
 - Lock-Out/Tag-Out
 - Protect patient when possible
 - Mark hot/warm/cold zones
 - Approach trench cautiously from ends to conduct recon and/or to make contact with victim(s).
 - Is there a protective system (shoring box or shores) currently in place that has not been compromised?
- Number of victims?
- Condition of the victim(s)
- How are they trapped, stuck?
- What shape of trench is it?

- If the victim is trapped, pinned or unable to self-rescue in an unprotected trench:
- Immediate Stop: Further actions require Technical Rescue Team**
- Signs of imminent secondary collapse:
 - Large cracks
 - Visual movement, running or loose soil
 - Leaning walls or corners

General Reminders

- Calm and reassure victims
- Support self-rescue.

Common Trench Shapes

“L”, “T”, “I”