

# Excavation Safety

## SUMMARY

This standard establishes design requirements for working safely in excavations. This standard mandates use of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Company or PG&E) [Excavation Safety Manual](#).

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Personnel who work in or near excavations or perform standby.

## SAFETY

Compliance with the Company's [Excavation Safety Manual](#) ensures safe working conditions.

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## REQUIREMENTS

### 1 General

- 1.1 This standard establishes use of the [Excavation Safety Manual](#) and any appendices or attachments.
- 1.2 The [Excavation Safety Manual](#) provides key information to personnel planning, creating, and/or working near excavations including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Pre-construction jobsite preparation or inspection.
  - Description of soil types and their characteristics.
  - Controlling hazards at the jobsite.
  - Monitoring excavation conditions for changes.
  - Installation and removal procedures for various types of shoring.
  - Designs for sloping and benching excavations.

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### Section 1 (continued)

- Emergency contact numbers and procedures for responding to a cave-in of an excavation.
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs).

1.3 The Company must maintain competent person training records.

## 2 Adherence to the *Excavation Safety Manual*

2.1 Personnel must adhere to the requirements in the [Excavation Safety Manual](#) when working in excavations including, but not limited to, the following items:

- Presence of a competent person onsite at all times.
- Analysis of soil classification.
- Identification of jobsite or environmental hazards affecting the stability of the excavation.
- Installation of cave-in protective system (shoring, sloping, benching, shielding, or other approved method).
- Inspection of the excavation and cave-in protective system at the beginning of each shift, and anytime conditions change.
- Securing the jobsite.

## 3 Records

3.1 Retain records per the Records Retention Schedule.

### END of Requirements

## DEFINITIONS

**Competent person:** one who is through training and experience, qualified of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to personnel, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate such conditions.

**Excavation:** Any man-made cut, cavity, trench, or depression in an earth surface formed by earth removal.

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### IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The area directors, superintendents, and supervisors ensure that personnel are trained and comply with the requirements of this standard. In addition, they are responsible for providing sufficient resources to achieve the requirements of this standard and ensuring that the Excavation Safety Manual is available at every jobsite where excavation activities are being performed to comply with the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA, regulations.

Personnel assigned tasks related to entering excavations must carry out their designated tasks. For their own safety and that of the general public, personnel must perform only the tasks for which they are trained, knowledgeable, and qualified. When necessary, personnel must notify their supervisor(s) of any additional training, equipment, or resources needed to perform assigned tasks.

### GOVERNING DOCUMENT

- NA

### COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT / REGULATORY COMMITMENT

- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) 29 CFR 1926 subpart P, Excavations](#)
- [1926.800; Underground Construction](#)
- [1926.956, Underground Lines](#)
- [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) Title 8, Section 1540, 1541, and 1542 governing Excavation Safety](#)

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

#### Developmental References:

- INGAA Document Cs-s-12, "Trenching and Excavation Safety"
- OSHA Technical Manual (OTM) Section, "Excavations: Hazard Recognition in Trenching and Shoring"

#### Supplemental References:

- NA

### APPENDICES

- NA

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### ATTACHMENTS

- [Attachment 1, "Excavation Safety Guide"](#)
- [TD-4621M-F01, "Excavation Safety Checklist"](#)

### DOCUMENT REVISION

- This document cancels Utility Standard S4415, "Excavation Safety," issued 01/2003.

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### REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
Revision 0b	
Form F01	Updated form requirements to clarify that completion of the form is "optional."
Revision 0a (Publication Date: 04/02/2014)	
Records	Added section, including records retention statement.
Form F01	Added statement to use non-erasable ink.
Revision 0 (Publication Date: 04/02/2014)	
NA	This is a new document.