

What to expect from the fire department on a trench rescue

- I. Dispatch 911 call
 - A. What type of call is it? Trench or confined space rescue?
 - B. Location of the call, address and land marks.
 - C. Is anyone injured or trapped?

- II. Travel Time of the rescue team.
 - A. Fully equipped rescue truck is slow.
 - B. Call the team early.

- III. Trench team arrival at the scene.
 - A. Stop any on going rescue effort.
 1. Evacuate the trench area
 - a. Contractors.
 - b. Local fire dept.
 - c. Any other personnel.
 2. Set up a 50 foot perimeter around the trench
 3. Set up a 150 foot no vibration zone around the trench.

- IV. Gathering of information
 - A. Locate job foreman for information.
 1. How many people are trapped?
 2. What kind of work was being done?
 3. How long have they been down?
 4. Any chance of an escape route (large pipe)?
 5. Any other utilities in the area?
 6. Location of the collapse (west wall on south end).

 - B. Locate competent person.
 1. What type of soil is it?
 2. What type of protection was in place for the workers?
 3. Any other known hazards in the trench area?

 - C. Locate the equipment operator.
 1. What did you see?
 2. How deep did you dig?
 3. How was the soil?
 4. How many people are trapped?

 - D. Gather the first responders (local fire dept.).
 1. What did you see?
 2. What did you do?

- V. Trench team recon.
 - A. Use proper PPE.
 - B. Use a 4 gas monitor.
 - C. Get the trench dimensions.
 - D. Locate the collapsed area.
 - E. Look for signs of the trapped worker.
 - F. Look for signs of possible escape.
 - G. Identify the type of collapse (sheer wall).
 - H. Look for signs of other utilities.
 - I. Place ladder in hole for escape.
 - J. Place ground pads around the hole.
 - K. Move the spoil pile by hand if needed.

- VI. Shoring operations.
 - A. Shoring continues until the trench is secured or victim is removed.

- VII. Digging.
 - A. Digging by hand with small spades.
 - B. Remove the dirt from the vital areas as soon as possible.

- VIII. Medical treatment.
 - A. Place victim on long spine board.
 - B. Consider the signs and treatment of crush syndrome.
 - C. Ground transport or air ambulance.
 - D. Contact medical examiner on body recovery.