



Site Security & Edge Protection Capital Delivery – Minimum Standards

Introduction

The undertaking of any activity which involves breaking ground or excavations is a high risk activity. Each year people are killed or seriously injured when there is conflict between plant and people or from collapse of the excavation. The activity must be properly planned, managed, supervised and carried out to prevent incidents. In most cases, straightforward physical protection measures can prevent incidents occurring but all too often a lack of thought and poor management control mean that protection is neglected leading to incidents and injuries.

Planning

Plan to do the following before performing any excavation activity or breaking ground:

- Avoid contact with underground services
- Provide safe working areas to keep highway users and members of the public away from excavations and machinery
- Protect operational staff from plant and vehicles
- Prevent trench collapse
- Keep excavated ground and other materials away from the excavation
- Provide visible and secure edge protection as necessary
- Avoid nearby structures or possible undermining
- Have appropriate access to the excavation
- Employ a hierarchical approach to the measures used

Discussion & Agreement

Mark Taylor, Head of Delivery for London Infrastructure met the with the Framework directors from J Browne, Morrison Water Services and Murphy and the following approach was jointly agreed for all CD London Infrastructure Projects. This was followed up with a wash up meeting and the development of a steering group with nominated individuals from each delivery partner

Site Boundary Protection

- Adequate and suitable fencing will be used to segregate the site from the public. Pedestrian barriers are not acceptable in any circumstance, if any changes to fencing set up are required please ensure it is recorded in the site risk assessment and this has been agreed with the site management team



Workforce protection within the site boundary

- Materials and muck must be stored in a segregated area. This can be within the working area but must be away from the zone of influence and the direct working area and must be barriered off, pedestrian barriers are not acceptable for muck storage as debris can fall through the barrier.
- Edges of excavations should be protected with substantial barriers where people are liable to fall into them. To achieve this, use:
 - Guard rails and toe boards inserted into the ground immediately next to the supported excavation side; or
 - fabricated guard rail assemblies that connect to the sides of the trench box



Workforce protection within site boundary

- If both sides are working sides, then adequate and suitable fencing must be used on both sides of the excavation. Pedestrian barriers are not acceptable.
- The non working side must also be barriered off to prevent access, adequate and suitable fencing should be used, pedestrian barriers are not acceptable.



Excavations outside of the main site boundary

- Excavations must be covered using footboards or road plates when access not required and also for out of hours. Fence panels / barriers are not acceptable
- If the excavation cannot be protected by barriers (ie.in trafficked road/ pedestrian route, or if the barriers create a blind spot), then road plates (carriageway) or pedestrian boards (footway) may be used as long as they are fit for purpose and no trip hazard introduced.
- Boards in the road must be able to take vehicle loading or if not possible adequate and suitable barrier system must be used around footboards



Important points to remember

- Pedestrian barriers are not acceptable in any circumstance
- Suitable and adequate barrier systems must be used in all situations
- Any changes must be risk assessed and noted in the on site risk assessment
- Be aware of wind loading on barrier systems especially if using herras fencing
- If the site boundary does not suffice edge protection then it must be introduced
- Ensure the barrier system complies with Temporary works and does not introduce added risk
- Keep areas clean and tidy reducing slip trip and fall risks
- Always ask yourself, the below
 - AM I SAFE
 - ARE THE PUBLIC SAFE
 - DOES EVERYONE KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM WHEN THEY APPROACH THE WORKS