



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Adjacent Area – Trenching Safety Message

The adjacent area is defined in OSHA's excavation regulation or Subpart P as the 'area out from the trench equal to the depth of the trench'. The importance of this area is often overlooked by those working in or near trenches, including equipment operators. Keeping in mind that all excavations will eventually collapse because of downward and lateral earth pressure, it's important to understand the extra pressure that loads create in the adjacent area.

Anybody that has attended an excavation safety class knows that OSHA regulations require the spoil pile to be at least 2 feet from the edge of the excavation and limits the weight of the materials in the **adjacent area to 20,000 pounds**.