

Guidelines for Trench Rescue Operations Guilford Fire Department

Organization

1. The position of Incident Commander will be staffed at every trench rescue incident. This position should be staffed by the senior fire official on scene or his/her designee based on technical and/or trench rescue KSA's.
2. There will be a safety officer at every trench rescue incident. This person will have some level of safety officer training whenever possible.
3. The operations officer should be trained to the trench rescue technician level (NFPA 1670) whenever possible.
4. The command staff will make the decision as to whether the incident is a rescue or recovery based on a risk/benefit analysis as soon as possible. If the incident is deemed a recovery then the option of benching the trench will be considered.
5. The soil making up the trench and the spoil pile will always be considered class "C", or unstable.
6. Decisions regarding the use of pneumatic shores (Paratech) vs. community shoring, inside and or outside walers, or other technical issues will be made by the operations officer.

Operation

1. No machinery will be used to move or extricate victims.
2. All machinery on site will be shut down to reduce vibration and the safety officer should collect the keys whenever possible.

3. 4'x8' plywood ground pads will be placed on all edges of the trench to disperse weight. If there is not enough room on the side closest to the spoil pile a 2"x12" ground pad is acceptable.
4. If necessary the spoil pile will be moved with shovels a reasonable distance from the lip of the trench. At a minimum enough to accept a 2"x12" ground pad. This side of the trench should have the least amount of activity during the operation.
5. The trench will be metered with a 4 gas detector before and during the entry and will be ventilated if necessary. SCBA will be used by the entrants if the atmosphere dictates.
6. The operations officer will consider breaking the operation into teams, for example, the panel team, the shoring team, etc. in an effort to ease communications during the incident.
7. Ladder access should be within 25' of the team operating in the trench whenever possible.

Proposed Response to Trench Rescue Incidents

Car 1 (addition ambulances at the IC's request)

1-9-1- Paratech shores, hand tools, air bags, SCBA, saws, lighting, etc.

on duty engine- manpower/ support functions

Special Operations trailer- command post/ rehab/ air cart

1-3-2 –lumber, panels, whalers, etc. jobox with additional tools