



Georgetown Board of Health

Permit issued by (permitting authority)

1 Library Street

Georgetown, Massachusetts 01888

Phone (978)352-5720

FAX (978)352-5714

Permit Number _____

Date Issued _____

Expiration Date _____

TRENCH PERMIT

Pursuant to G.L. c. 82A §1 and 520 CMR 7.00 et seq.(as amended)

THIS PERMIT MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION

Name of Applicant		Phone		Cell
Street Address				
City/Town	MA	ZIP		
Name of Excavator (if different from applicant)			Phone	Cell
Street Address				
City/Town	MA	ZIP		
Name of Owner(s) of Property			Phone	Cell
Street Address				
City/Town	MA	ZIP		
Other Contact		Permit Fee Received No () Yes ()		
Description, location and purpose of proposed trench: Please describe the exact location of the proposed trench and its purpose (include a description of what is (or is intended) to be laid in proposed trench (eg; pipes/cable lines etc..)) Please use reverse side if additional space is needed.				
Insurance Certificate #:				
Name and Contact Information of Insurer:				
Policy Expiration Date:				
Dig Safe #:				
Name of Competent Person (as defined by 520 CMR 7.02):				

Massachusetts Hoisting License #	
License Grade:	Expiration Date:

BY SIGNING THIS FORM, THE APPLICANT, OWNER, AND EXCAVATOR ALL ACKNOWLEDGE AND CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE FAMILIAR WITH, OR, BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK, WILL BECOME FAMILIAR WITH, ALL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO WORK PROPOSED, INCLUDING OSHA REGULATIONS, G.L. c. 82A, 520 CMR 7.00 et seq., AND ANY APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES, BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND THEY COVENANT AND AGREE THAT ALL WORK DONE UNDER THE PERMIT ISSUED FOR SUCH WORK WILL COMPLY THEREWITH IN ALL RESPECTS AND WITH THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BELOW.

THE UNDERSIGNED OWNER AUTHORIZES THE APPLICANT TO APPLY FOR THE PERMIT AND THE EXCAVATOR TO UNDERTAKE SUCH WORK ON THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNER, AND ALSO, FOR THE DURATION OF CONSTRUCTION, AUTHORIZES PERSONS DULY APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY TO ENTER UPON THE PROPERTY TO MONITOR AND INSPECT THE WORK FOR CONFORMITY WITH THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED HERETO AND THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SUCH WORK.

THE UNDERSIGNED APPLICANT, OWNER AND EXCAVATOR AGREE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY TO REIMBURSE THE MUNICIPALITY FOR ANY AND ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE MUNICIPALITY IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PERMIT AND THE WORK CONDUCTED THEREUNDER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ENFORCING THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE LAW AND CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT, INSPECTIONS MADE TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE THEREWITH, AND MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MUNICIPALITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WHERE THE APPLICANT OWNER OR EXCAVATOR HAS FAILED TO COMPLY THEREWITH INCLUDING POLICE DETAILS AND OTHER REMEDIAL MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

THE UNDERSIGNED APPLICANT, OWNER AND EXCAVATOR AGREE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE MUNICIPALITY AND ALL OF ITS AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CAUSES OR ACTION, COSTS, AND EXPENSES RESULTING FROM OR ARISING OUT OF ANY INJURY, DEATH, LOSS, OR DAMAGE TO ANY PERSON OR PROPERTY DURING THE WORK CONDUCTED UNDER THIS PERMIT.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

_____ DATE _____

EXCAVATOR SIGNATURE (IF DIFFERENT)

_____ DATE _____

OWNER'S SIGNATURE (IF DIFFERENT)

_____ DATE: _____

For City/Town use -- Do not write in this section	
PERMIT APPROVED BY	\$ _____ Application Fee
PERMITTING AUTHORITY	
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL	

CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO G.L.C.82A AND 520 CMR 7.00 et seq. (as amended)

This is a worker protection standard, and is designed to protect employees who are working inside a trench. This summary was prepared by the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety and not OSHA for informational purposes only and does not constitute an official interpretation by OSHA of their regulations, and may not include all aspects of the standard. For further information or a full copy of the standard go to www.osha.gov.

- **Trench Definition per the OSHA standard:**

- An excavation made below the surface of the ground, narrow in relation to its length.
- In general, the depth is greater than the width, but the width of the trench is not greater than fifteen feet.

- **Protective Systems** to prevent soil wall collapse are always required in trenches deeper than 5', and are also required in trenches less than 5' deep when the competent person determines that a hazard exists. Protection options include:

- Shoring. Shoring must be used in accordance with the OSHA Excavation standard appendices, the equipment manufacturer's tabulated data, or designed by a registered professional engineer.
- Shielding (Trench Boxes). Trench boxes must be used in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's tabulated data, or a registered professional engineer.
- Sloping or Benching. In Type C soils (what is most typically encountered) the excavation must extend horizontally 1 ½ feet for every foot of trench depth on both sides, 1 foot for Type B soils, and ¾ foot for Type A soils.
- A registered professional engineer must design protective systems for all excavations greater than 20' in depth.

- **Ladders** must be used in trenches deeper than 4'.

- Ladders must be inside the trench with workers at all times, and located within 25' of unobstructed lateral travel for every worker in the trench.
- Ladders must extend 3' above the top of the trench so workers can safely get onto and off of the ladder.

- **Inspections** of every trench worksite are required:

- Prior to the start of each shift, and again when there is a change in conditions such as a rainstorm.
- Inspections must be conducted by the competent person (see below).

- **Competent Person(s) is:**

- Capable (i.e., trained and knowledgeable) in identifying existing and predictable hazards in the trench, and other working conditions which may pose a hazard to workers, and
- Authorized by management to take necessary corrective action to eliminate the hazards. Employees must be removed from hazardous areas until the hazard has been corrected.

- **Underground Utilities** must be:

- Identified prior to opening the excavation (e.g., contact Digsafe).
- Located by safe and acceptable means while excavating.
- Protected, supported, or removed once exposed.

- **Spoils** must be kept back a minimum of 2' from the edge of the trench.

- **Surface Encumbrances** creating a hazard must be removed or supported to safeguard employees. Keep heavy equipment and heavy material as far back from the edge of the trench as possible.

- **Stability of Adjacent Structures:**

- Where the stability of adjacent structures is endangered by creation of the trench, they must be underpinned, braced, or otherwise supported.
- Sidewalks, pavements, etc. shall not be undermined unless a support system or other method of protection is provided.

- **Protection from water accumulation hazards:**

- It is not allowable for employees to work in trenches with accumulated water. If water control such as pumping is used to prevent water accumulation, this must be monitored by the competent person.
- If the trench interrupts natural drainage of surface water, ditches, dikes or other means must be used to prevent this water from entering the excavation.

- **Additional Requirements:**

- For mobile equipment operated near the edge of the trench, a warning system such as barricades or stop logs must be used.
- Employees are not permitted to work underneath loads. Operators may not remain in vehicles being loaded unless vehicles are equipped with adequate protection as per 1926.601(b)(6).
- Employees must wear high-visibility clothing in traffic work zones.
- Air monitoring must be conducted in trenches deeper than 4' if the potential for a hazardous atmosphere exists. If a hazardous atmosphere is found to exist (e.g., O₂ <19.5% or >23.5%, 20% LEL, specific chemical hazard), adequate protections shall be taken such as ventilation of the space.
- Walkways are required where employees must cross over the trench. Walkways with guardrails must be provided for crossing over trenches > 6' deep.
- Employees must be protected from loose rock or soil through protections such as scaling or protective barricades.