

SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS BULLETIN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COUNCIL

Excavation Safety: FREE Training in the New Year

by: Robert Lahey, Construction Safety Council

The Construction Safety Council enjoys a partnership with PowerForward DuPage, as both organizations share a commitment to enhancing and preserving the well-being of IBEW Local 701 employers and employees. Training programs are discounted on a variety of topics in order to make them affordable and accessible throughout the Chicagoland region.

In 2024, this partnership is expanding to include a new opportunity for electrical, energy, and communication contractors to participate in Essentials in Excavation Safety. The curriculum has been developed by the Construction Safety Council and is offered at no cost - thanks to federal grant funding from the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Essentials in Excavation Safety is available in English or Spanish on any day at any time. The Construction Safety Council hosts training delivery every month in Hillside, Illinois. In addition, instruction is available upon request by a member of PowerForward DuPage.

The four-hour program includes interactive discussions, equipment demonstrations, and virtual reality simulations to help ensure safety for electricians engaged in trenching operations. The Council's instructors are subject matter experts skilled in sharing their knowledge and experience with fellow construction professionals.

The course content also supports the OSHA National Emphasis Program on Trenching and Excavation, which became effective in October 2018 but, unfortunately, remains relevant today. Tragically, the number of U.S. fatalities resulting from underground work has more than doubled since 2021 - with dozens of casualties reported each year.

The Construction Safety Council and PowerForward DuPage are working together to prevent injuries and losses that result from trench cave-ins. This half-day training program provides a solution that is not only long lasting, but also lifesaving.

Make it a New Year's Resolution to attend for FREE or schedule a session for your employees. Enrollment in Essentials in Excavation Safety is now open at www.buildsafe.org or call (708) 449-8604 to request on-demand delivery at a convenient time and location.

PowerForward DuPage and the Construction Safety Council are pleased to partner in support of this continued effort to ensure that IBEW contractors and members Work Smart, Build Safe.

Robert Lahey is the President & CEO of the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council located in Hillside, Illinois. For more than 30 years, the Council has delivered programs and services in support of its mission to improve human safety performance through education and training. Learn more at www.buildsafe.org.



The Construction Safety Council, in partnership with the NECA-IBEW 701 Safety Committee,

would like to remind you to Work Smart, Build Safe!