



# Safety Quarterly

## New Confined Space Rule just released by OSHA



**“This rule will save lives of construction workers,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a final rule to increase protections for construction workers in confined spaces.

Manholes, crawl spaces, tanks and other confined spaces are not intended for continuous occupancy. They are also difficult to exit in an emergency. People working in confined spaces face life-threatening hazards including toxic substances, electrocutions, explosions and asphyxiation.

Last year, two workers were asphyxiated while repairing leaks in a manhole, the second when he went down to save the first – which is not uncommon in cases of asphyxiation in confined spaces. “In the construction industry, entering confined spaces is often necessary, but fatalities like these don’t have to happen,” said Secretary of

Labor Thomas E. Perez. “This new rule will significantly improve the safety of construction workers who enter confined spaces. In fact, we estimate that it will prevent about 780 serious injuries every year.”

The rule will provide construction workers with protections similar to those manufacturing and general industry workers have had for more than two decades, with some differences tailored to the construction industry. These include requirements to ensure that multiple employers share vital safety information and to continuously monitor hazards – a safety option made possible by technological advances after the manufacturing and general industry standards were created.

“This rule will save lives of

construction workers,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. “Unlike most general industry worksites, construction sites are continually evolving, with the number and characteristics of confined spaces changing as work progresses. This rule emphasizes training, continuous worksite evaluation and communication requirements to further protect workers’ safety and health.”

Compliance assistance material and additional information is available on OSHA’s Confined Spaces in Construction Web page.

The UTCA Safety Committee will welcome OSHA Area Director, Kris Hoffman to speak on this issue at our July meeting.

## Streaming Videos Available

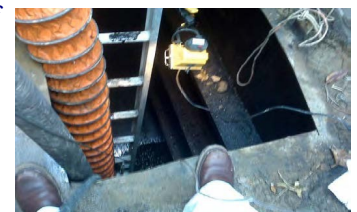
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A reminder that The UTCA Safety Committee has recently purchased licenses for our membership to use. These licenses give members access to Safety and other videos available at Coastal Flix. Coastal Flix is the DuPont owned company from which we have purchased many of

our DVD safety videos.

If you would like to view a video please look at their website and e-mail Dan Neville the titles and of the videos you would like to watch and he will send you the PIN codes or if you prefer, you can be e-mailed a full playlist of appropriate videos



*Ventilation hoses provide air and exhaust toxic vapors during confined space entry. The use of a guardrail would also be necessary to protect workers from potential falls.*

with the corresponding PIN codes.

## UTCA's Traffic Control Check List is Now Available on Website



UTCA Safety Director Dan Neville worked with former Construction Trooper John Mahieu and the UTCA Safety Committee to create a TCC checklist for contractors to use as a reference tool when planning to set-up Traffic Control.

The New Jersey State Police Construction Unit is no longer available to assist contractors even on the most active highways. The UTCA encourages all contractors to officially ask for troopers (in writing) when they feel that the situation warrants a trooper.

The TCC check list is an additional tool to help a contractor's TCC create and maintain the planned Traffic Control. The lack of troopers on and near our

road projects has made it so much more important for our members to be vigilant in the work zones to protect our workers.

Traffic is not slowing down and without troopers, the contractor must ensure that all TCC plans are being carried out and short cuts are not taken. Attenuator truck hits are on the rise and near misses are increasing. To keep our workers safe the UTCA Safety Committee urges all contractors to follow the approved TCC Plan, use this check list and review all internal traffic control plans too before the projects start.

[Click Here](#) for TCC Check List which is located in the toolbox talks section on our website. (login required)

## The New Jersey Common Ground Alliance Celebrates its 10th Anniversary this Fall

The NJ CGA's mission statement is: **"Through shared responsibility among all stakeholders, New Jersey Common Ground Alliance works to reduce damages to the New Jersey Infrastructure – ensuring public safety, education, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention"**

The New Jersey Common Ground Alliance was formed ten years ago in an effort to reduce and prevent damages to the State's Infrastructure. For eight years Dan Neville has represented the UTCA as a steering committee Chairman and now as a Board of Director for Excavators.

The NJ CGA was initially organized as a Steering Committee/Council to address mutual concerns of the State's utilities. It was soon envisioned to be a permanently established group that should include ALL stakeholders in future efforts to develop and implement initiatives that would promote effective damage prevention practices.

The NJ CGA was born on November 2, 2005 with the Kick-off Meeting held in Edison, NJ.

Under its Mission Statement, the group began and has continued to operate under a Board of Directors comprised of a cross section representation of the utility, government and private stakeholder groups. On an as-needed basis, both standing and ad hoc committees have been formed to address specialized or specific areas of interest or concern.

The CGA's list of accomplishments in this past decade include Quarterly Meetings that have provided a venue where all stakeholders throughout the state can meet and learn, exchange opinions/ideas and collaborate toward

either a process improvement or resolution of a problem.

- Municipal mandates and penalty assessments for removal of mark-outs (assisted in initiating steps toward a BPU declaratory ruling on jurisdictional rights)
- Design Mark Outs - supported the development and implementation of a state-wide utility engineer contact directory by the NJUA
- Participated in the promotion of online reporting and mapping of damages

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## UTCA Members Participated in Stand-Down To Prevent Falls

Over the last few years OSHA has tried to generate awareness of fall hazards by having Stand-Down events. Last month many UTCA members participated in the “Stand-Down To Prevent Falls in Construction Week,” May 4-15.

Dan Neville and the UTCA Safety Committee promoted the efforts to call attention to the continuous hazards that falls have on our member firm’s workers.

To participate, members hung Stand-Down posters in their shops, presented videos on preventing falls followed by tool box talks on all their job sites over the entire week to continually stress all aspects of Fall Protection.

Companies reviewed or discussed conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing specific job hazards. The Stand-Down events provided opportunities for our members and their workers to talk about the hazards they face and examine the proactive protective measures contained in their company’s safety policy and reviewing their safety goals and expectations on the jobsite.

All different size companies participated in events throughout the week. Some had toolbox talks every day discussing certain aspects of fall protection and others conducted full hour plus training sessions during the week. One

Contractor, **Atlantic Concrete Cutting**, conducted toolbox talks with video trainings every day of the week on all of their jobsites. Dan Cowperthwait, safety director, stated that this was their second year participating in the Stand-Down and feels it is having a positive impact for his workers.

If you want to be more involved with the UTCA Safety Committee, receive communications and/or participate on a listserv with other UTCA safety professionals please email Dan Neville at [dan@utcanj.org](mailto:dan@utcanj.org).



## NJ CGA accomplishments continued...

- Participated in the promotion of programs conducted by Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) that have dealt with pipeline safety and security
- Continued the practice of obtaining the Governor’s Proclamation of April-Damage Prevention Month
- Participated in the roll-out of the 811 nationally recognized one-number to call
- Going into our 5th year of developing and facilitating contractor excavation safety training events throughout the state

To date, the NJCGA has 325 participants of record whose level of support and involvement varies but which have still contributed to the ongoing success of our group. It is the future hope that the NJ CGA will continue to demonstrate achievement of the common goal to promote damage prevention and public safety.

**NJCGA**  
New Jersey Common Ground Alliance

CELEBRATING  
**10**  
YEARS  
2005 - 2015

[www.njcg.com](http://www.njcg.com)



*Example of a cross bore. (Courtesy Cross Bore Association)*

## Cross Boring Damages to Gravity Sewers UTCA is Looking to Help NJ GCA

The UTCA is seeking details of members' experiences with damage from cross boring utility installations. As more and more gas and water utility mains and services are being installed by boring rather than by open cut methods, a new type of damage is being observed. These "cross-bores" are penetrating gravity sewers, especially laterals; causing damage that too often goes unreported. There have been recorded incidents of gas services punched through sanitary sewer laterals without anyone initially reporting the problem. Eventually the lateral becomes clogged and someone is called to snake out the drain. On more than one occasion, this type of cleaning operation has caused a leak in the gas service and ultimately an explosion. This type of damage is suspected as a cause of the fatal gas explosion in Ewing, NJ in March 2014.

One of the problems may be that the State of New Jersey does not require owners of gravity sewer lines to be part of the 811 system that requires utility mark-out before one excavates. We know, of course that these are not the only types of construction that result in damage to our gravity sewers. Unfortunately, damage to these facilities is often covered up since storm and sanitary sewers often have low or no flow at the time they are damaged. When we locate damage to our mains it is usually long after the guilty party has left the scene. It's much harder to ignore damage to gas or water lines which are under constant pressure and constitute a much more immediate threat to public safety.

The NJ Common Ground Alliance, an organization dedicated to the protection of underground utilities, will be studying this issue and Carl Peters, NJSME representa-

tive to the Common Ground Alliance is asking members to provide him with descriptions of this type of damage to the sewers that you operate. Detailed records or photos of the damage would be especially helpful. Please e-mail these items by July 15, 2015 to [cpeters@carlepeters.com](mailto:cpeters@carlepeters.com). The NJ Common Ground Alliance includes operators (utility companies), excavators (contractors), design professionals, mark-out firms (locators), NJ One Call and representatives of government organizations such as NJDOT, OSHA and the NJ Board of Public Utilities. Although membership is open to all, there is little representation from municipalities who maintain water, sanitary sewer and drainage systems.