Excavation and Shoring

Shoring is intended to protect workers, property, and the general public. Shoring stabilizes loads and keeps materials from accidently moving when working in an excavation or supporting an overhead or side load. It prevents sliding, slipping, caving, squeezing, or any other dangerous movement of the face of the excavation.

Alternative to Shoring: Sloping

Soil conditions might make it possible to slope the excavation wall instead, but not always.

Regular Inspections of Shoring

Regularly inspect faces and banks of shoring:

- If you detect any unusual conditions, you must report them immediately.
- *Every worker* engaged in excavation must take the responsibility of checking, because:
  - Everyone's safety is at stake.
  - Even though there are daily inspections, sudden problems might only be noticed by the workers.
- When checking, look for:
  - Loose materials.
  - Cracks, deflection, signs of wear, or other damage.
  - For hydraulic or metal shoring, welds are in tack and hydraulic lines are not leaking pressure.

Properly maintain shoring:

- **Shore adjacent, weakened structures**: If buildings, sidewalks, or roads are weakened by excavation, they require shoring for the protection of the public and the people working below.
- **Keep screw jacks from slipping.** When using screw jacks to install shoring material within a trench, they should be installed horizontally and within 2 degrees across the trench. They should also be installed from the top down.
- **Make use of stairways, ramps, or ladders**: Do not climb on shoring or jump onto it when you enter or leave an excavation, as it can cause a shift and could result in an injury.
- **Blocking should be carried forward with jacking**: The jack will not kick out when the load is properly centered. Nevertheless, reduce hazards due to failure or slipping of jacks.

Other safety measures:

- Do not work under structures or other objects supported by jacks alone.
- Secure dangerous surfaces before workers enter the excavation.
- Do not work above another worker if there is a danger of falling rock or materials.
- Follow all safety instructions.

Operators of equipment and all workers on excavations must be alert to the dangers of shoring and the possibility of walls being struck by falling materials or shifting loads.

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SMG

TOOLBOX TALK
Safety Briefing

Name	Signature

Date: _____