



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

TOOLBOX TALK EXCAVATION SAFETY

WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING



WATER ADDS WEIGHT

Water dramatically increases the weight of soil and reduces its stability.

MATERIAL	DRY (lbs/yd ³)	WET (lbs/yd ³)
 SAND	2,700	3,240
 LOAM	2,106	2,700
 CLAY	1,836	3,078

**CLAY GAINS OVER 1,200 POUNDS
PER CUBIC YARD WHEN SATURATED.**



WHY SATURATED CLAY IS DANGEROUS

When clay becomes saturated it:



Loses compressive strength



Loses shear strength



Has very little tensile strength



Places greater pressure on
trench walls



Increases the likelihood
of a cave-in



COMPETENT PERSON INSPECTIONS

An **ongoing inspection** of an excavation or trench shall be made by a **competent person**.



After every **rainstorm** or other **hazard-producing occurrence**, an inspection shall be made by a competent person for evidence of possible slides or cave-ins.



**WHERE THESE CONDITIONS
ARE FOUND, ALL WORK
SHALL CEASE**

until additional precautions, such as additional shoring or reducing the slope, have been accomplished.



BEFORE ANYONE ENTERS



Has the excavation been inspected today?



Has it rained since the last inspection?



Has soil type changed?



Are spoil piles at least 2 feet from the edge?



Has a competent person approved entry?



**EVERY EXCAVATION CHANGES DAILY
INSPECT • EVALUATE • PROTECT**



Your life. Your coworkers. Your responsibility. **WORK SAFE. GO HOME SAFE.**