

Safety Alert

Event Number: 10495

Event Date: 29/04/2021

Classification: L4; Hazard Observation

Excavation Zone of Influence

Description of Event:

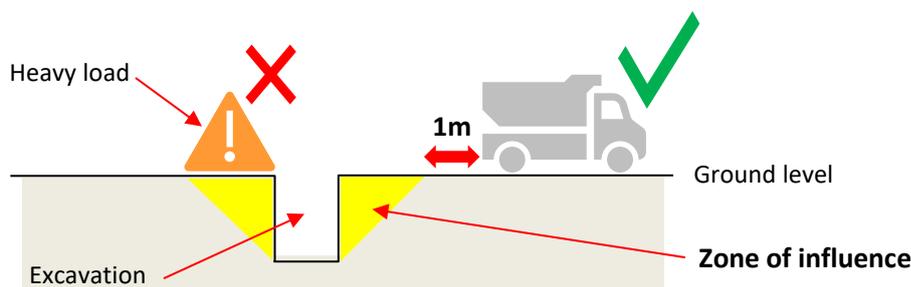
A site audit identified a powered mobile plant (Dump Truck) parked within the zone of influence of an excavation. The Dump Truck was positioned within one metre of the edge of the excavation which may increase the potential risk of an excavation/ trench collapse without structural supports.

WorkSafe Excavation Safety Guide

Para 5.5 Excavated material and loads near excavations

The influence of any loads near the excavation can cause ground collapse. Any excavated material and external actions applying a load to the ground nearby can affect the excavation's stability through the zone of influence. The zone is normally from the base of an excavated face to the surface. The zone's angle will depend on site-specific factors.

Mechanical plant, vehicles, spoil, or heavy loads should not be in the zone of influence plus 1m from an excavation unless specific design can show it can support the surcharge load.



Actions to Prevent Reoccurrence:

- Clearly demark the zone of influence plus 1m
- Mechanical controls (wheel stoppers and barriers)
- Positional radar/proximity devices
- Traffic/plant management planning
- Use of a spotter
- Continued monitoring of plant movements

<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/excavation/excavation-safety-gpg/>

For further information please contact: Lakhmi Venkatesan BU Manager 021 530 106.

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