



## GBCA SAFETY NOTICE

### EXCAVATION & TRENCHING

**Amendment to the Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code**  
**Subcode "A" (The Philadelphia Administrative Code)**  
**Chapter 3—Permits**

**Permits go into effect January 1, 2023**

#### OBJECTIVES

**PROTECT LIFE, SAFETY, AND  
ADJOINING PROPERTY!**

- Ensure that the contractor has knowledge and skill necessary to perform excavations.
- Increase transparency and awareness of projects that include excavation work.
- Establish minimum permit submission requirements for excavations to ensure that adjoining buildings and public ways are sufficiently protected.
- Demonstrate that an adequate investigation/assessment necessary for responsible design/construction and ensure affected buildings are appropriately monitored throughout the construction or demolition.
- Provide notice and complete project information to an adjoining owner or resident of a building that is directly impacted by the work.

#### Bill No. 210389

- Established an excavation contractor license and permit for excavation exceeding 5' below grade, excluding utility trenches and geotechnical investigation unless otherwise required by regulation.
- Established inspection and monitoring requirements for structural alterations on a historic structure, excluding one and two family dwellings, and when demo/new construction, or excavation occurs within 90' of an historic structure on the same or abutting lot.
- Modifies threshold for special inspection of excavations to 5' below adjacent grade and 10' within an existing building and establishes framework for a separate special inspection license category. Current requirements established under Code Bulletin B-0503-R2.
- Explicitly requires notification to adjoining property owner and identifies contents of notice where there is modification to a party wall, excavation near a party wall, or demo/new construction near a historic structure.
- **Bill signed into law on 7/15/21 and becomes effective on 1/1/23**



# GBCA SAFETY NOTICE

## EXCAVATION & TRENCHING (P. 2)

### Excavation Contractor License

- Excavation contractor license required to perform excavation services resulting in cuts, trenches, or depressions in the Earth's surface more than 5' below adjacent grade.
- This includes basement dig-outs.
- Intent is to exclude utility trenches/ geotechnical exploration that does not require a permit AND exclude demolition that does not require a separate excavation permit.
- Excavation Contractor license will be required prior to the issuance of an excavation permit filed on or after January 1, 2023.
- \$103 annual fee
- License will become available in eCLIPSE in September 2022.

### Contractor License Requirements

#### Requirements

- Commercial Activity License Phila Tax Account in good standing
- Insurance of \$2 million general liability
- \$300k auto
- Workman's Compensation
- License Bond \$100k- City will draw against the bond to recapture abatement costs
- Qualified Site Safety Manager OSHA training and certification

### Excavation Site Safety Manager

- At least one site safety manager employed by the contractor. May not be employed by another excavation contractor
- Responsible to oversee excavation operations to ensure safe practice.
- Shall be present on-site during excavation operations
- Must provide OSHA 30 Construction and Safety Training certificate
- Course must be taken within 5 years of application
- Site Safety Manager must either 1) retake course every 5 years or 2) present 30 continuing education credits in site safety every 5 years
- Must provide OSHA 3015 Excavation, Training, and Soil Mechanics certificate
- Must take within past 5 years and re-take every 5 years or provide 20 CEUs

Find more information at the following link:

<https://www.phila.gov/services/permits-violations-licenses/get-a-license/trade-licenses/get-an-excavation-contractor-license/>