TRENCH RESCUE

TRENCH DEFINED:

- An excavation that is narrow in relation to it's length, made below the ground's surface
- In general, the depth is greater than the width, but the width of the trench measured at the bottom is not greater than 15 feet

SIZE-UP

- Unit designation / on scene / crew strength
- Address/ incident location
- Conditions
  - Number of victim(s) and point last seen
  - Size of trench
  - Type of entrapment
- Establish Command
- Request trench rescue response and any additional resources based on incident type
- Unit staging / check-in location

INITIAL ACTIONS

- Establish Hot Zone- 0-50 feet from site
- Establish Warm Zone 50-150 feet away
  - Stage apparatus a minimum 150 feet away from site
- Establish Cold Zone 150-300 feet
  - Stop all traffic and shut off equipment within 300 feet
- Approach trench from the head and utilize 360 degree approach
- Obtain pertinent history from responsible/ reporting party
- Determine if incident is a rescue or body recovery
- Identify hazards and secure them prior to rescue efforts (Lock Out / Tag Out)
- Determine victim location
- Consider victim marking and protection
- Place ladder in trench near victim, provide edge protection, remove spoil pile a minimum 2 feet from edge and to a maximium of 4 feet in height
- Place at least 2 ladders in trench every 25 feet
- Begin atmospheric monitoring of trench
- **Assign Site Safety Officer and develop Site Safety Plan (ICS Form 208)**

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OSHA REQUIREMENTS

- Shoring for holes or trenches greater than 5 feet deep / or containing unusual hazards (running soil, running water)
- Entry personnel must be USAR technicians
- Back up / RIC personnel must be USAR Technicians
- Proper PPE
- Consider high point rope system for victim removal
- Incident Commander (OSHA requirement)
- Safety Officer (OSHA requirement)
  - First arriving company officer will be the safety officer until sufficient units arrive
  - Designate an Asssitant Safety Officer who is Trench Rescue trained
- Site Safety Plan (OSHA Requirement)

LOCK OUT / TAG OUT

- Shut down non-essential equipment to zero mechanical state
- Ensure electrical equipment is de-energized Lock it / tag it, or post a guard
- Secure any equipment that may move through gravity or momentum