



ToolboxTalk

Shoring Box Collapse

The incident:

A worker was knocked over by a falling 8' x 4' Speed Shore shoring box.



The Cause:

The shoring box had just been raised from a trench to excavate a little deeper. A Kubota U35 was used to hoist the shoring box out of the trench. A four-way lifting chain was used with a lifting ring hooked over the wide tooth of the excavator bucket. The shoring box was lifted out of the trench with the 8' length straight up and down. Once the shoring box had been lifted clear of the trench and set on the sidewalk adjacent to the trench, the lifting ring slipped from the tooth of the excavator allowing the box to collapse towards a worker, contacting him and pushing him back from the excavation. A second worker received scrapes on the forearms from the falling box while the foreman attempted to slow the descent of the box.



Preventing the incident:

Teeth are not an appropriate attachment point for rigging hoists. Approved lifting points are to be used with appropriate lifting devices. In this case, a backhoe was on the site but was not used as it is not as easy to use as the mini-excavator.

If the lifting point had been attached to the backhoe through the lifting eye, the box would not have been capable of collapsing and falling.