

## Excavation Checklist

**Christopher G. Hill**

**804.916.6591**

**Chill@durettebradshaw.com**

### Before you dig:

- Remove or support potentially hazardous surface encumbrances.
- Locate utilities.
- Design structural ramps for access and egress.
- Provide workers with reflector vests if they will be exposed to vehicular traffic.
- Inspect and classify the soil by type by using Visual *and* Manual tests to determine which type of soil you will be digging.
- Use the soil classification to configure the steepness of the excavation slope.

### During the dig:

- Underground Utilities (Detect and remove or support).
- Ramp—uniform thickness, all parts connected, cleats.
- Reflective vests (if exposed to traffic).
- Equipment
  - Workers out from under
  - Warning System (e.g. barricades)
  - 2 feet away from edge of hole
- Lifelines for deep or confined footing excavations.
- Keep ground water out of the excavation.
- Protect workers from mudslide (for example, use a shield system, a pump system for drainage, or lifelines).
- Support nearby structures.
- Protect workers from falling loose rock or soil on the pit face (scale the face, install protective barricades).
- Keep equipment at least two feet from the edge of the excavation edge.
- Inspect the excavation site daily for evidence of possible cave-in or failure of safety systems.
- Use guardrails on walkways that cross six feet over the excavation.

### For your protective systems in the dig site:

- Follow the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations on how to use your support system.
- Keep at the dig site a copy of the tabulated data on soil that you use to select your support system.
- When removing the support system, start at the bottom and work up. Backfill the hole as the support system is removed.
- Install shield system to prevent sudden lateral movement if there is a cave-in.
- Do not allow workers near the shield system when it is being installed, repositioned, or removed.

