VIRGINIA PRO SERVICES

VPS TOOLBOX TALK

Below-Grade Waterproofing Access

TRADE: WATERPROOFING & SEALANTS	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today’s task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Today's topic is Below-Grade Waterproofing Access. Focus on excavation walls, limited access and changing ground conditions, then walk the crew through the actual setup, work area and stop-work conditions. A confined space can become dangerous without anything looking dramatic from outside. Oxygen deficiency, toxic or flammable atmospheres, engulfment, energy sources and rescue limitations must be addressed before entry, and conditions must be monitored as required during the work.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

The crew preparing for Below-Grade Waterproofing Access realizes the rescue method on the paperwork cannot actually reach or retrieve a worker from the current setup. What must be fixed before anyone enters?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Evaluate/classify the space and complete the required permit, isolation, testing and rescue arrangements before entry.
- Calibrate/bump-check monitoring equipment as required and establish the testing locations and sequence.
- Verify ventilation, communication and attendant/entrant/supervisor roles before anyone enters.
- Confirm underground utilities and excavation limits before digging or working near the excavation.
- Have the excavation evaluated by the required competent person and maintain the selected protective system.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Confirm underground utilities and excavation limits before digging or working near the excavation.
- Have the excavation evaluated by the required competent person and maintain the selected protective system.
- Provide safe access/egress and keep spoil piles, equipment and surcharge loads back from the edge as required.
- Control water accumulation, traffic and mobile-equipment exposure around the excavation.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Entering before the space is fully evaluated, isolated and tested.
- Treating one acceptable air reading as proof that the atmosphere will stay acceptable.
- Planning rescue after the emergency instead of before entry.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The space has not been evaluated/classified or the required permit, testing or rescue provisions are incomplete.
- Atmospheric readings move outside acceptable limits or ventilation/monitoring fails.
- An energy, flow, engulfment or configuration hazard appears that is not controlled by the entry plan.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What makes this space confined, and what condition makes it permit-required or otherwise restricted for today's work?
2. What atmospheric hazards are we testing for, where are we testing, and what reading stops entry?
3. Who is the entrant, attendant, and entry supervisor, and can each person explain the job without reading the form?
4. What is the rescue method if an entrant cannot self-rescue, and is that rescue capability actually available right now?
5. What must be fixed before anyone enters?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Show the actual meter, ventilation and rescue equipment and identify who is entrant/attendant/supervisor.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.651 - Specific Excavation Requirements

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ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Below-Grade Waterproofing Access

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
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8			
9			
10			

QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.