

# New Trench Safety Regulations

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On November 2, 2007, the Department of Public Safety ("Department"), in conjunction with the Division of Occupational Safety ("[DOS](#)"), promulgated regulations that establish standards to prevent unauthorized access to unattended trenches in the Commonwealth. The regulations, 520 CMR 14.00: Excavation and Trench Safety were written in a joint effort by the Department and DOS following the enactment of Chapter 82A of the General Laws. Chapter 82A, also referred to as Jackie's Law, sets forth the required content of the regulations and was passed by the Legislature following the death of 4-year-old Jaclyn Moore, who was buried when an unattended trench collapsed in a private backyard.

**Effective January 1, 2009 the DPW/Engineering Division will require approved Utility Contractors to complete Trench Permit applications in order to remain licensed through the Department of Public Works. Trench Permit applications are available at the DPW/Engineering Division office, 25 Center Street.**

## Links

[Notice of New Trench Regulations](#)

[Trench Safety Poster](#)

[Division of Occupational Safety \("DOS"\)](#)