

Competent Person and Excavation Safety Workshop

May 20–21, 2025



**MMUA Training Center
Marshall, MN**

2025 program details

This course is intended for public works personnel, water/wastewater personnel, lineworkers, engineering personnel, contract workers, and anyone involved with underground utility or infrastructure work.

“Competent Person” defined

The OSHA Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926.32) defines a “competent person” as someone who is:

- Capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings, or
- Working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and
- Who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

Course content

Participants will be taught the basics of the OSHA excavation standards (29 CFR 1926—Subpart P), learn about soil testing, use soil information to determine the correct protective system needed, and learn to identify the hazards associated with trenching and excavation.

Digging around natural gas and high voltage power lines is a very critical process and needs to be done with extreme care. Participants will learn the proper techniques when digging around these obstacles.

This workshop includes classroom and hands-on instruction/demonstration to ensure participants can obtain the designation of a Competent Person at the end of this workshop.

Course topics and objectives to obtain Competent Person Designation:

- Display knowledge of 29 CFR 1926—Subpart P - Excavations
- Demonstrate correct soil-testing procedures
- Identify hazards associated with trenching and excavation
- Understand and utilize the different types of protective systems
- Understand proper “pot holing practices”

Agenda

Tuesday, May 20

- 12:00–1:00 Registration/check-in
- 1:00–1:15 Welcome
- 1:15–3:00 Competent person/excavation safety
- 3:00–4:30 Excavation around/exposing natural gas and power lines

Wednesday, May 21

- 8:00–12:00 Trench excavation safety: shoring, benching, and sloping
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch
- 1:00–2:45 Trench excavation safety
- 2:45–4:00 Q and A and debrief

What to bring

Please bring appropriate attire and materials, including:

- High-visibility clothing/outerwear
- Safety glasses
- Work gloves
- Hard hat
- Safety footwear

Registration information

Member: \$545 per person

Non-member: \$815 per person

Registration fee includes school tuition, materials, refreshment breaks, and lunch on Wednesday. MMUA will issue a refund (less \$50 processing fee per person) provided MMUA is notified of the cancellation by 4:30 pm on May 9. Refunds issued to a credit card will be subject to a 3% fee. Visit mmua.org/events to register.

Register by April 24 for the best rate. Registration fees increase \$50 after that date.

Hotel information

Marshall offers many hotel options, in addition to the hotels listed below. MMUA has arranged for discounted lodging at these hotels. Please call the hotel directly and ask for MMUA's reduced rate when making your reservation. We recommend making your reservation as soon as possible, as availability cannot be guaranteed.

AmericInn
1406 E Lyon St, Marshall
Phone 507-537-9424

EverSpring Inn & Suites
1500 E College Dr,
Marshall
Phone 507-532-3221