



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

TRENCH SAFETY STAND DOWN WEEK

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, trenching and excavation work are construction operations performed by many residents every day; and

WHEREAS, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), in partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) share a belief that safe trenching and excavating are critical functions; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that construction employers and employees who work in trenching and excavation have access to education and training in identifying hazards associated with these activities; and

WHEREAS, companies around the state should acknowledge and draw attention to specific hazards related to working in and around trenches and excavations; and

WHEREAS, trench collapse deaths are preventable with proper shielding, shoring, sloping, and training; and

WHEREAS, despite increased training and hazard identification, recent national statistics on trench injuries and deaths show an alarming increase, with OSHA reporting 39 trench collapse deaths in 2022, up from 15 fatalities in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages residents to recognize this annual week to focus on education and training in trenching and excavating hazard awareness known as the "Trench Safety Stand Down," in partnership with NUCA, its chapters, and OSHA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 19 – 23, 2023, as “**TRENCH SAFETY STAND DOWN WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourteenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.