



# LESSONS LEARNED

## EXCAVATOR STRADDLING AN EXCAVATION

### WHAT HAPPENED?

Crew was completing an open trench excavation. The operator straddled the trench to come back and remove more dirt from under the curb. While backing up away from the curb, the excavation gave way, causing the excavator to drop approximately 2'6". There were no injuries from the incident. Excavator damage included a damaged motor door and damage to the side panel and plastic near the grab bar.

### KEY & CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

#### Human Factor:

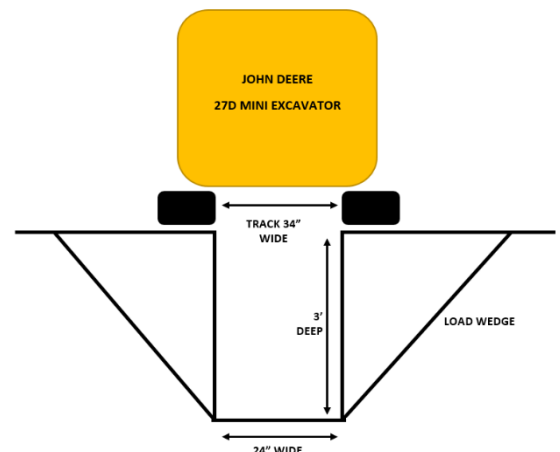
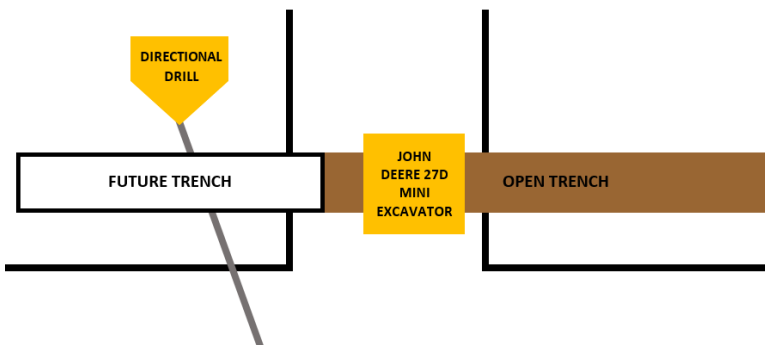
- Operator straddled the ditch in order to get back to a location that needed additional excavation.
- Failure to recognize the hazard – During Trenching and Excavation Competent Person training, employees are taught to keep equipment away from the load/unstable wedge on the sides of the trench.



### LESSONS LEARNED

#### Human Factor:

- Don't straddle a ditch with equipment.
- Backfill trench if needed in order to safely excavate another area.
- Complete excavation from a different angle if possible.



This Lessons Learned has been prepared as a communication directly to All Employees. It is for awareness purposes – not to admit or assign blame. REVIEW THIS INFORMATION WITH EVERY EMPLOYEE!