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- TV Schedule
- More Info
- Video
- Photos
- News
- Weather
- Investigations
- Special Reports
- Traffic
- Sports
- Business
- Consumer
- Health
- Entertainment
- Food
- Community
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Company Has Numerous Trench-Related Violations

- [VIDEO: Rafael Romo reports.](#)

Jun 7, 2005 5:13 pm US/Central

WHEATON (CBS 2) A construction company's safety record is in the spotlight after a trench collapsed and killed a worker.

The safety concerns come as federal inspectors are examining the scene of yesterday's accident, trying to determine if that trench was safe for anyone to be in.

The federal government inspects the safety records of companies once every two years and every time the Hamilton Construction safety records were inspected over the last eight years, violations were found. The violations were similar to the apparent cause of Monday's accident.

Federal investigators found this iron box right next to the site where a trench collapsed killing one worker in Wheaton.

Officials with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Tuesday that this trench box is just one of several ways 74-year-old Herman Calloway could have been saved. He and his son were in the 12-foot deep trench when a wall of asphalt, rock and dirt collapsed on them of. The son survived the accident.

The preliminary investigation has just begun. And many questions remain unanswered about how the accident happened.

Hamilton Construction, the company that employed the victims, has repeatedly committed safety violations. OSHA investigators found a total of 10 safety violations in the company's records since 1997.

That year the company received four citations, one of them for not using cave-in protection at a trench site.

In 1999, Hamilton Construction was cited again, one of two citations had to do once more with a trench violation.

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[Construction Company's Safety Record Under Scrutiny](#)

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And finally, three years ago, the company was found to have committed four violations, again one of them for improper trench safety.

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Several agencies, including OSHA and the Wheaton Police Department, are working in the investigation.

Executives with Hamilton Construction did not return phone calls Tuesday.

OSHA has up to six months to complete a thorough investigation regarding the trench accident.

Rafael Romo

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