

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Phone: (317) 232-1979 FAX: (317) 233-3790



Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

To:
RK Excavating LLC
and its successors
20885 Overdorf Rd
Noblesville, IN 46062

Inspection Number: 1747971
CSHO ID: R8076
Optional Report No.: N/A
Inspection Date(s): 05/14/2024 - 09/03/2024
Issuance Date: 09/19/2024

Inspection Site:
14650 Umber Ave
Noblesville, IN 46062

The violation(s) described in this Safety Order and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

An inspection of your workplace of employment has revealed conditions which we believe do not comply with the provisions of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Act (Indiana Code Chapter 22-8-1.1) or the standards or rules adopted thereunder. Accordingly, enclosed please find safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty describing such violation(s) with references to applicable standards, rules or provisions of the statute and stating the amount of any penalty(ies).

Informal Conference – Please be advised that it may be possible to informally settle any potential dispute without initiating the more elaborate proceedings brought on by a petition for review. Prior to filing a petition for review, you may request an informal conference concerning any results of the inspection (safety orders, penalties, abatement dates, etc.) by contacting the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA, preferably by telephone, in a prompt manner. Please be advised that a request for an informal conference cannot extend the fifteen working day period for filing a petition for review. Informal conferences frequently resolve any possible disputes, and therefore you are urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Because of the limited time period and in order to facilitate scheduling, any requests for an informal conference should be made promptly upon your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Right to Contest – You are hereby also notified that you are entitled to seek administrative review of the safety order(s), penalty(ies), or both by filing a written petition for review at the above address postmarked within fifteen working days of your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. (“Working days” means Mondays through Fridays, but does not include Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays under a state statute or days on which the Indiana Department of Labor’s offices are closed during regular business hours). If you do not file such a petition for review (contest), the safety

order(s) and penalty(ies) shall be deemed final orders of the Board of Safety Review and not subject to review by any court or agency. The issuance of a safety order does not constitute a finding that a violation has occurred unless no petition for review is filed, or if a petition for review (contest) is filed, it must contain a statement of its basis and should reference the above inspection number. Upon receipt of your petition for review, we will affirm, amend or dismiss the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we affirm, your petition for review will be granted (unless it was not timely) and the dispute will be certified by the Board of Safety Review for further proceedings. The Board of Safety Review is an independent board appointed by the governor with authority to conduct legal proceedings leading up to and including administrative hearings or assign an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct the same, and to issue decisions concerning disputed safety orders and notifications of penalties. If we amend the safety order(s) or notification(s) of penalty, your petition for review shall be deemed moot. However, you will then be given an opportunity to file a petition for review concerning the amended safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Please be advised that an employee or representative of employees may file a petition for review to contest the reasonableness of the time stated in the safety order(s) for the abatement of any violation.

Posting - Upon receipt of any safety order(s) you are required to post such safety order(s), or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the safety order(s) occurred. However, if your operations are such that it is not practicable to post the safety order(s) at or near each place of alleged violation, such safety order(s) shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, if you are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the safety order(s) may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. You must take steps to ensure that the safety order is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Posting shall be until the violation is abated, or for three working days, whichever is longer.

Penalties - Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Abatement does not constitute payment of penalties.

Abatement - The conditions cited in the safety order(s) must be corrected (abated) on or before the date shown for each item on the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty unless:

(1) You file a petition for review concerning the violation, in which case the full abatement period shall commence from the issuance of a final decision by the Board of Safety Review or the courts which requires compliance with the safety order; or

(2) The abatement period is extended by the granting of a petition for modification of abatement date.

PMAs - The petition for modification of abatement date is a manner in which you may seek additional time to correct (abate) a violation without having to file a petition for review concerning the safety order, or after the expiration of the time period to file such a petition for review when it becomes apparent that you need extra time to abate the violation. A petition for modification of abatement date shall be in writing and shall include the following information:

(1) All steps you have taken, and the dates of such actions, in an effort to achieve compliance during the prescribed abatement period.

(2) The specific additional abatement time necessary in order to achieve compliance.

(3) The reasons such additional time is necessary, including the unavailability of professional or technical personnel or of materials and equipment, or because necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the original abatement date.

(4) All available interim steps being taken to safeguard employees against the cited hazard during the abatement period.

(5) A certification that a copy of the petition has been posted, and if appropriate, served on the authorized representative of affected employees, and a certification of the date upon which such posting and service was made.

A petition for modification of abatement date shall be filed with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA no later than the close of the next working day following the date on which abatement was originally required. A later-filed petition shall be accompanied by the employer's statement of exceptional circumstances explaining the delay. A copy of such petition shall be posted in a conspicuous place where all affected employees will have notice thereof or near such location where the violation occurred. The petition shall remain posted until the time period for the filing of a petition for review of the Commissioner's granting or denying the petition expires. Where affected employees are represented by an authorized representative, said representative shall be served a copy of such petition.

Notification of Corrective Action - Correction of the alleged violations which have an abatement period of thirty (30) days or less should be reported in writing to us promptly upon correction. A "Letter of Abatement" form and an "Abatement Photographs" worksheet are enclosed for your assistance in providing adequate documentation of abatement. Reports of corrections should show specific corrective action on each alleged violation and the date of such action. On alleged violations with abatement periods of more than thirty (30) days, a written progress report should be submitted, detailing what has been done, what remains to be done, and the time needed to fully abate each such violation. When the alleged violation is fully abated, we should be so advised. Timely correction of an alleged violation does not affect the initial proposed penalty.

Followup Inspections - Please be advised that a followup inspection may be made for the purpose of ascertaining that you have posted the safety order(s) and corrected the alleged violations. Failure to correct an alleged violation may result in additional penalties for each day that the violation has not been corrected.

Employer Discrimination Unlawful - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above.

Notice to Employees - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above within fifteen (15) working days (excluding weekends and State holidays) or receipt by the employer of this safety

order and penalty.

If you wish additional information, you may direct such requests to us at the address or telephone number stated above.

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Phone: (317) 232-1979 FAX: (317) 233-3790



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with IOSHA to discuss the Safety Order(s) issued on 09/19/2024.

The Informal Conference will be held:

Date: _____

Time: _____

_____ **Virtually/Telephonically via Microsoft Teams**

Call-in Number: _____

Conference ID: _____

_____ **In-person at the Indiana Department of Labor, located at the following address:**

402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Meeting/Conference Room: _____

Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 1747971
CSHO ID: R8076
Optional Report No.: N/A
Inspection Date(s): 05/14/2024 - 09/03/2024
Issuance Date: 09/19/2024



Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Serious**

IC 22-8-1.1 Section 2: The employer did not furnish employees employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees, when employees were exposed to crushing hazards as follows:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, the employer did not prohibit an employee from riding the bucket of the Kubota KX080-4S, Serial No. 42753, excavator down into the trench approximately 10-feet deep, exposing the employee to crushing hazards from an inadvertent operation and movement.

Among other methods, several feasible and acceptable abatement methods to correct this hazard are: 1) Follow the Kubota KX080-4 Manual, Page 10, 12. Do not allow passengers to ride on any part of the excavator at any time. Page 16, 6. Danger, Warning, and Caution Labels, (1) Part No. RD819-5728-1 Label #3. Never allow passengers on any part of the excavator while operating. 2) Follow the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) Safety Manual, which states on page 20 "Warning: Never use a bucket for a work platform of personnel carrier." 3) Follow the NIOSH Publication, Preventing Injuries When Working with Hydraulic Excavators and Backhoe Loaders, which states "Never permit workers to ride in or work from excavator or backhoe buckets."

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 1747971
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Optional Report No.: N/A
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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Serious**

IC 22-8-1.1 Section 2: The employer did not furnish employees employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees, when employees were exposed to struck by hazards as follows:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, employees were exposed to the recognized hazard of being struck by the bucket of the Kubota KX080-4S, Serial No. 42753, excavator as the employee worked under the bucket of the excavator in the trench that is approximately 10-feet deep.

Among other methods, several feasible and acceptable abatement methods to correct this hazard are: 1) not allow employees to work under the bucket of the excavator, 2) Follow the Kubota KX080-4 Manual, Page 10, 9. Check the surroundings carefully before using the excavator or when attachments are being attached, bullet point four, Do not allow any persons within the working range of the excavator during operations.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	Corrected During Inspection
Proposed Penalty:	\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2): The employer did not instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his/her environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, employees were not instructed in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions applicable to their work environment such as but not limited to those connected with excavations.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 4 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.100(a): Employees working in areas where there was a possible danger of head injury from impact, falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, were not protected by protective helmets:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, employees working in and around trenches and in other areas where the hazard of flying and falling objects existed were not wearing head protection.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$600.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 5 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.651(c)(2): A stairway, ladder, ramp, or other safe means of egress was not located in trench excavations that were 4 feet or more in-depth:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, during construction activities, no ladder, ramp, or other acceptable means of egress was provided for employees in the trench that was approximately 20-feet long, 8-feet 6-inches wide, and estimated to be approximately 10-feet deep with near vertical walls.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 1747971
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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 6 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.651(j)(2): Protection was not provided by placing and keeping excavated or other materials or equipment at least 2 feet from the edge of excavations, or by the use of retaining devices that were sufficient to prevent materials or equipment from falling or rolling into excavations, or by a combination of both if necessary:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, during construction activities, excavated spoil, approximately 4 feet 8 inches high, was placed directly on the edge of the excavation and not at least 2 feet from the edge.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 7 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.651(k)(2): Where the competent person found evidence of a situation that could result in possible cave-in, indications of failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions, exposed employees were not removed from the hazardous area until the necessary precautions have been taken to ensure their safety:

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, during construction activities, the competent person failed to perform the duties as required, in that he did not correct conditions, and did not prevent employees from being exposed to, or cause them to be removed from, the hazards of a cave in, in a trench approximately 20-feet long, 8-feet 6-inches wide, and estimated to be approximately 10-feet deep with near vertical walls.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, IN 46062

Safety Order 1 Item 8 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.652(a)(1): Each employee in an excavation was not protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system designed in accordance with 1926.652(b) or (c), and does not fall under either exception in 1926.652(a)(1)(i) or (ii):

Jobsite - 14650 Umber Ave, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062 - On May 13, 2024, during construction activities, during construction activities, no cave-in protection was provided for the employees in a trench approximately 20-feet long, 8-feet 6-inches wide, and estimated to be approximately 10-feet deep, with near vertical walls.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$1,400.00


Jeremy Galloway
IOSHA Director



INVOICE/DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

Company Name: RK Excavating LLC
Inspection Site: 14650 UMBER AVE, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46062
Issuance Date: 09/19/2024

Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 1747971

Safety Order 1 Item 1, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 2, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 3, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 4, Serious	\$600.00
Safety Order 1 Item 5, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 6, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 7, Serious	\$1,400.00
Safety Order 1 Item 8, Serious	\$1,400.00

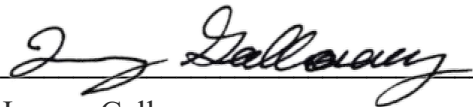
TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTIES: \$10,400.00

Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless requested. Make your check or money order payable to: "Indiana DOL/IOSHA." Please indicate IOSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance. You may also make a payment online at <https://payingov.com/dol/>. Your account number is your inspection number.

IOSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Corrective action taken by you for each alleged violation should be submitted to this office on or about the abatement dates indicated on the Safety Order and Notification of Penalty.

A worksheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this worksheet should be posted at the worksite with safety orders.



Jeremy Galloway
IOSHA Director

9/19/2024

Date