

OSHA proposes fining NH co. for excavation cave-in

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CONCORD, N.H. — A Pittsfield, N.H., company has been accused of violating federal safety standards by failing to protect workers installing a sewer in Littleton.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed a total of \$55,000 in fines against Northeast Mechanics Inc. The agency began investigating after watching a 10-foot deep excavation site collapse just five minutes after a worker exited.

Rosemarie Ohar, OSHA's area director, says the case is a textbook example of how an excavation can become a grave in seconds.

The company has 15 days to comply, meet with OSHA or contest the fine.

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