Cemetery Safety

‘Making every step a safer step’

Fiona Hurst

FOOTPRINT TRAINING

Galong Cemetery


JOHN GILBERT
IN MEMORY
JOHN
GILBERT
DIED 13TH MAY
1865
R.I.P

Fiona Hurst

- Certificate III in Gravedigging, grounds and maintenance
- Certificate III in Crematoria operations
- Gravesafe
- Grief training
- Funeral Safety
- Exhumation Training
- Cemetery Safety
- Working Safely in Cemeteries

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ccawasecretary@gmail.com

Cemetery Safety 2-Day Course

GRAVE PREPARATION

- Aesthetics/presentation
- Cultural Burial practices

SOIL CONDITIONS AND SHORING REQUIREMENTS

- Considerations for different soil types
- Shoring requirements and options, pros and cons of different equipment

TRENCH COLLAPSE AND CONSOLIDATION

- Management of a collapse

EXHUMATION

- Regulations and requirements
- Biological hazards and controls

MAUSOLEUM

- Preparing and reinstating vaults or crypts
- Regulations and requirements

DEALING WITH GRIEF IN THE WORKPLACE

- Techniques for dealing with people with mental health issues
- Techniques for dealing with people affected by alcohol or drugs in the workplace

LEGISLATION

- Employer and employee responsibilities
- Best practice for following work health and safety procedures
- Risk assessments

WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES

- Is the space a confined space?
- Regulations and requirements

Course Objectives

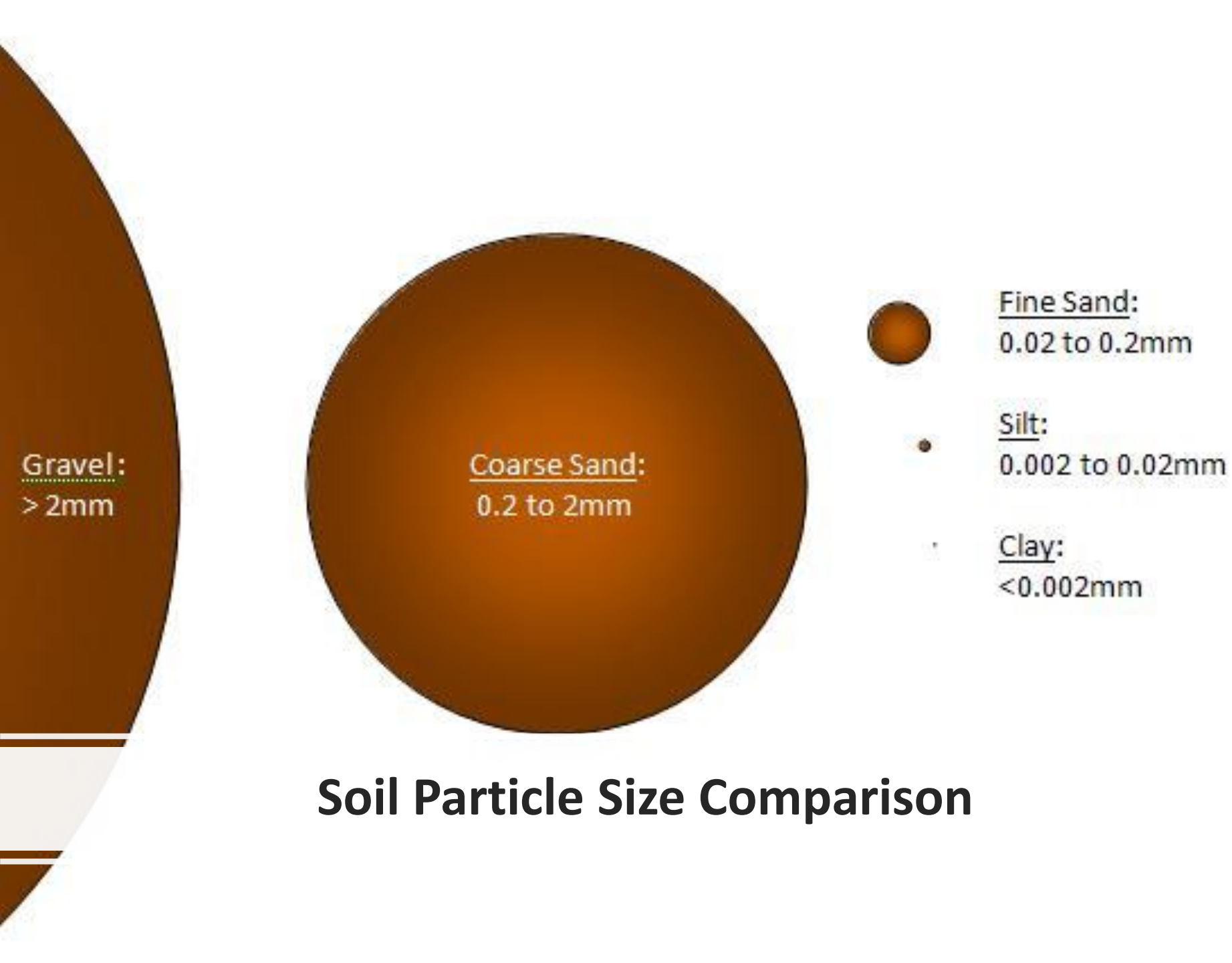
Identify hazards that could cause harm

Assess the risks, calculate the likelihood and the consequences of harm

Control the risks, identify the most effective and reasonably practicable control measures

Review the control measures regularly to ensure they are effective

Soil Type

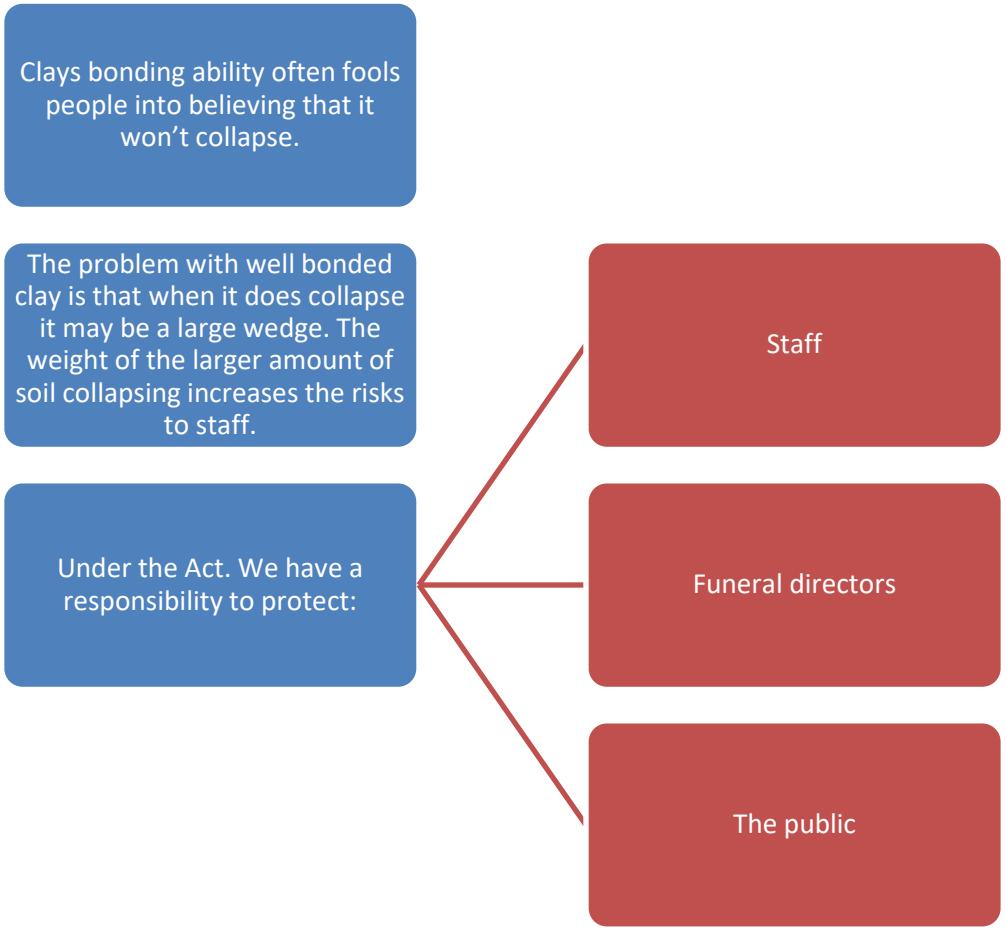


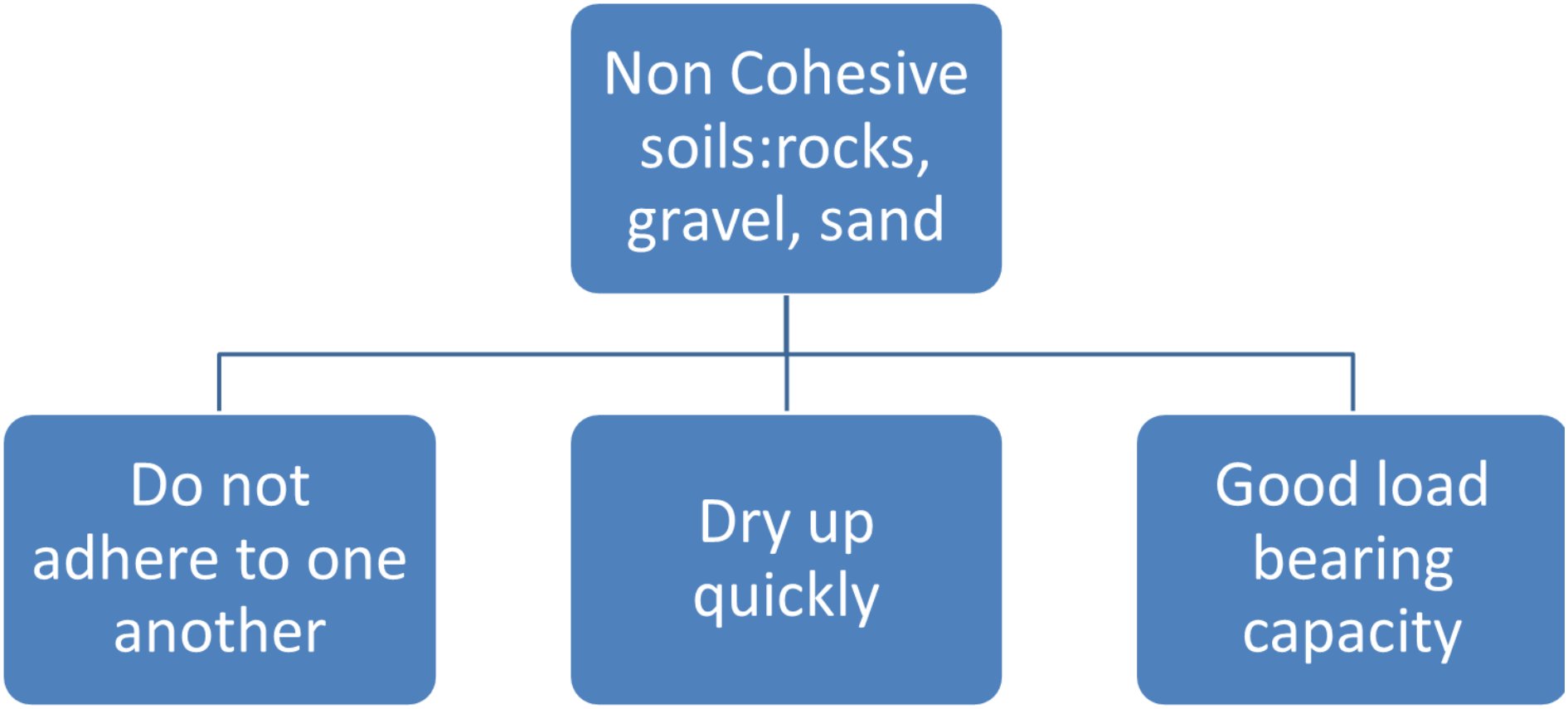
Soil Particle Size Comparison

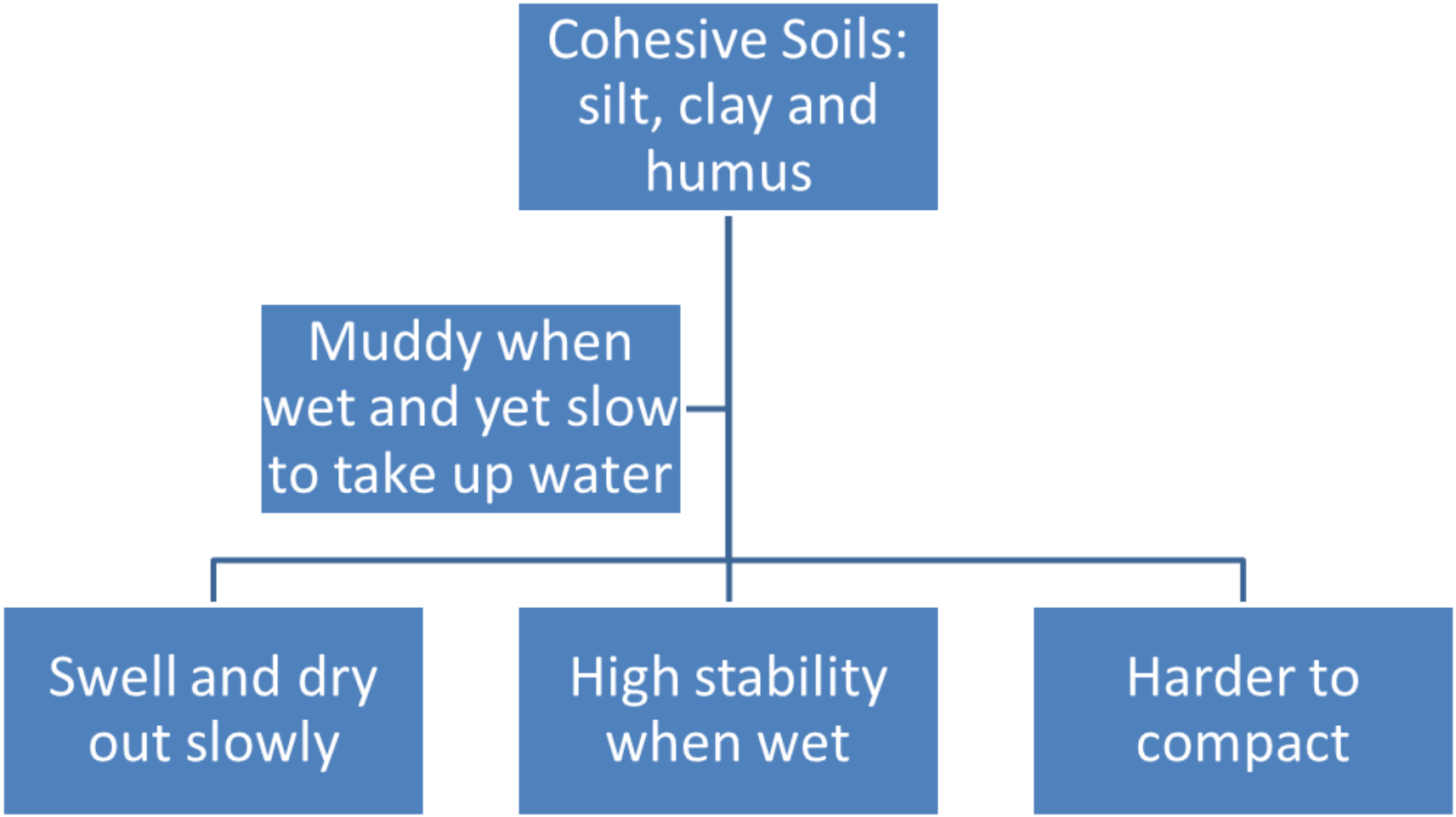
Soils ain't Soils

- Mostly made up of three basic components, **sand**, **silt** and **clay**.
- Changes to the amount of **water** in can greatly increase or decrease the risk of collapse.
- **Clay** has a strong **bonding** ability, though different types of clay give different strengths of bonding.
  - A red loam is less inclined to be sticky and is easier to dig, whereas a heavy clay will have poor drainage and be hard when dry and sticky when wet, making them much more challenging to dig.

How can we use this information?




Non Cohesive soils:rocks, gravel, sand
Do not adhere to one another
Dry up quickly
Good load bearing capacity


Cohesive Soils: silt, clay and humus
Muddy when wet and yet slow to take up water
Swell and dry out slowly
High stability when wet
Harder to compact

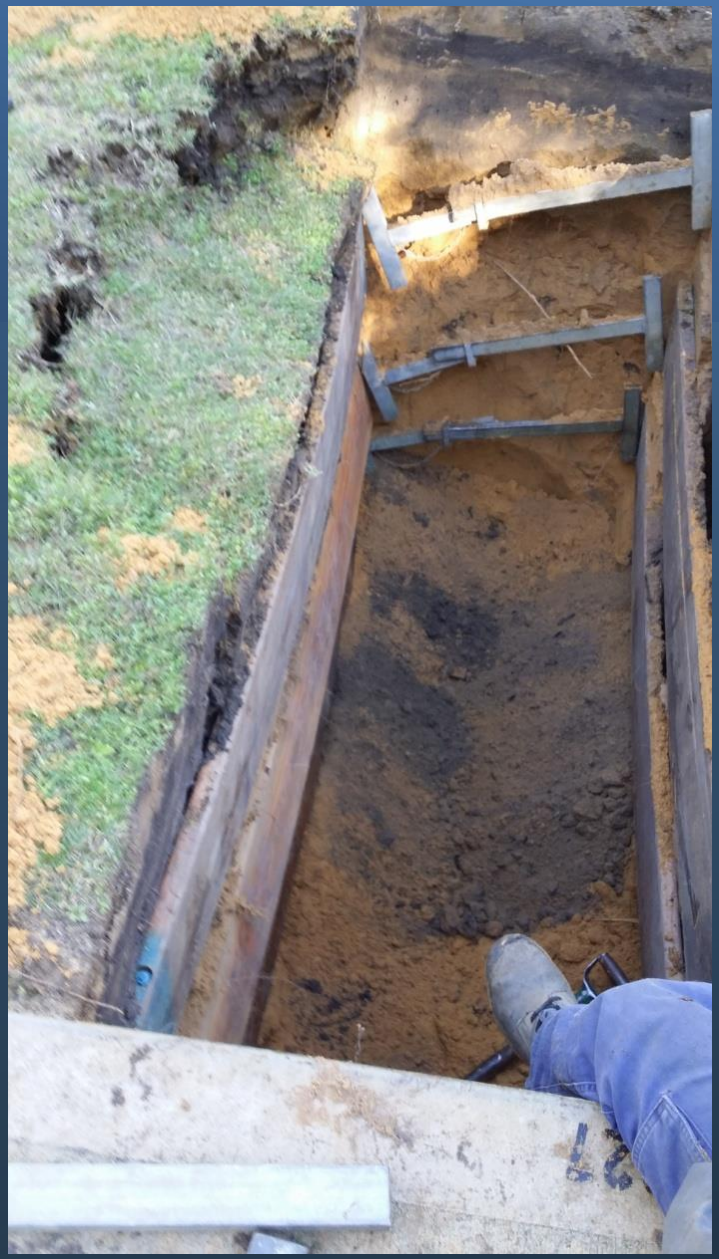
Soil Stability

Water pressure from ground waterflow increases horizontal stresses and increases the possibility of slumping

Saturation increases the weight and possibly the volume of soil E.g.

- Excess water pressure in sandy soil
- Dryness may reduce cohesion in sandy soils and soils high in organic matter

Karrakatta



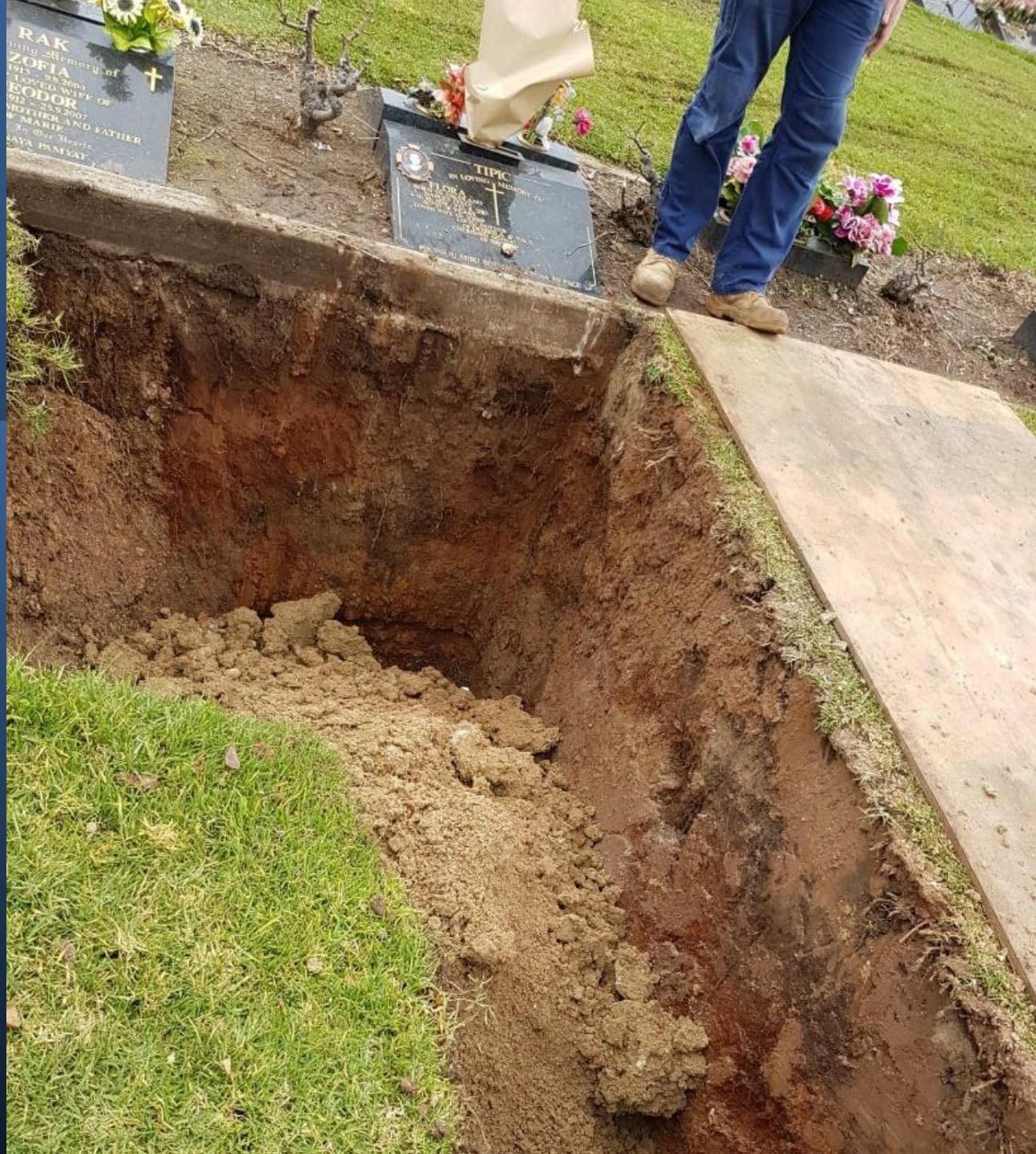
High Water Table

Townsville


Footprint Training

Footprint Training

Enfield SA



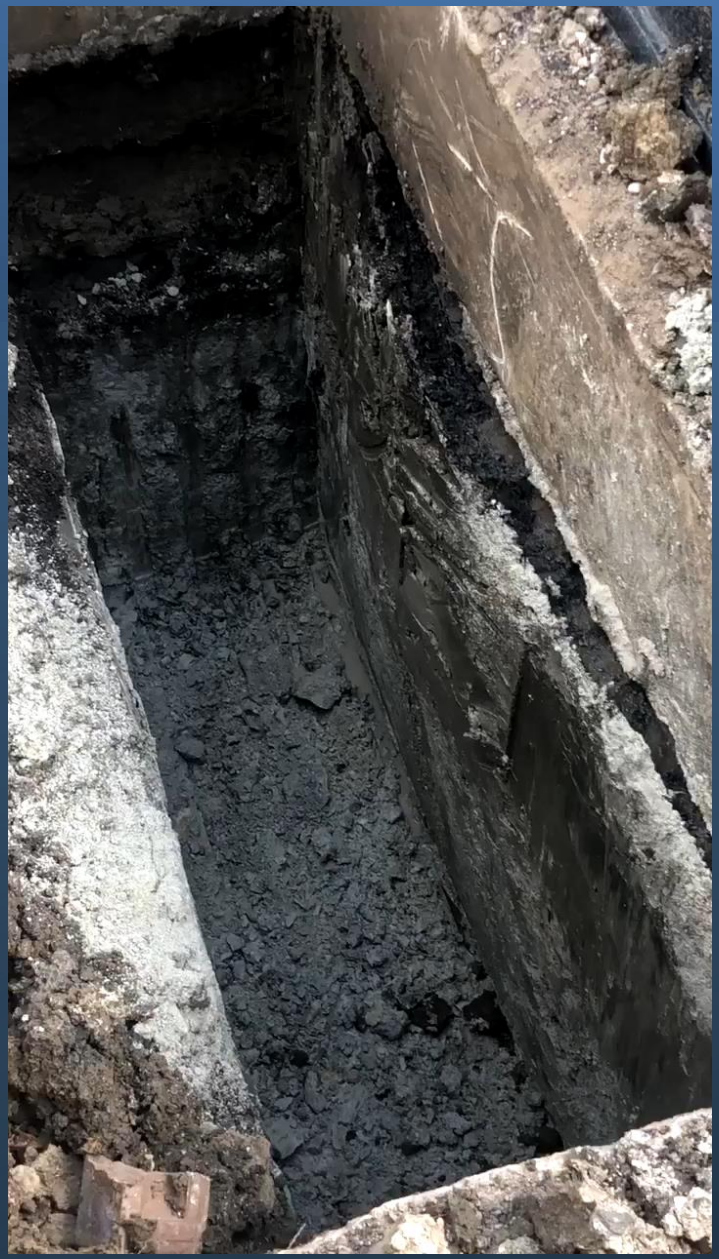
Shoring installed

- Gaps between the trench wall and the shield can create voids which may allow the trench wall to collapse
  - Control is to fill the voids with spoil

- Shoring needs to be designed by a geotechnical engineer

THE GRAVE NEXT DOOR MAY BE WATERLOGGED AND THEREFORE MORE LIKELY TO COLLAPSE

IF EXCAVATION IS CARRIED OUT THE EMPLOYER NEEDS TO ENSURE THAT ACTION TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC BY IMPLEMENTING RISK CONTROLS WHERE THERE IS RISK OF GROUNDWATER INGRESSING



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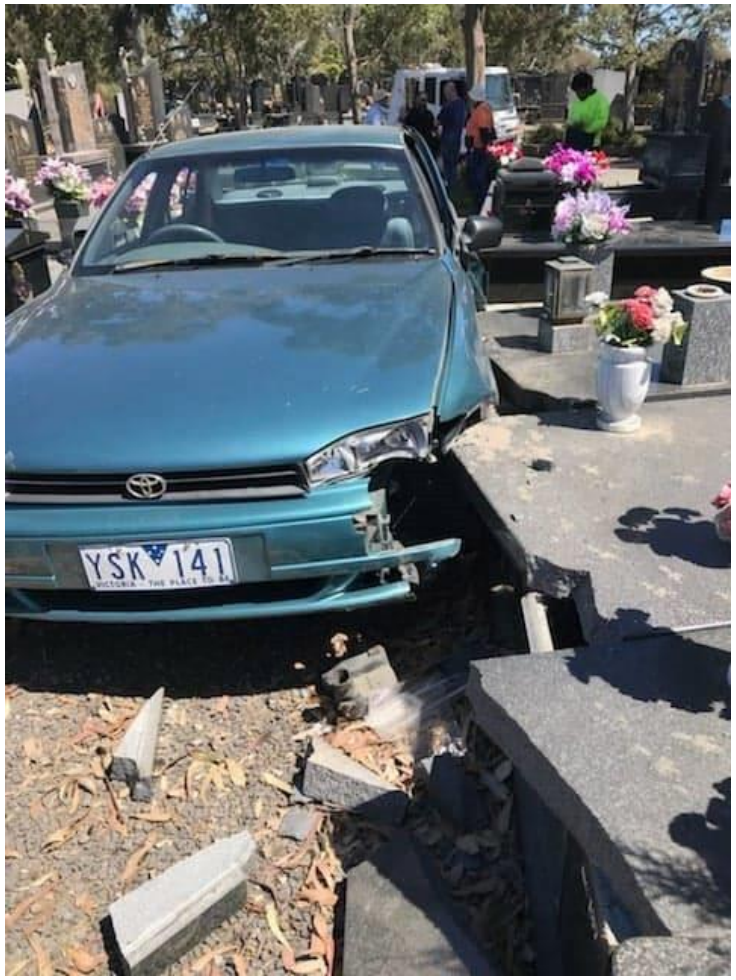
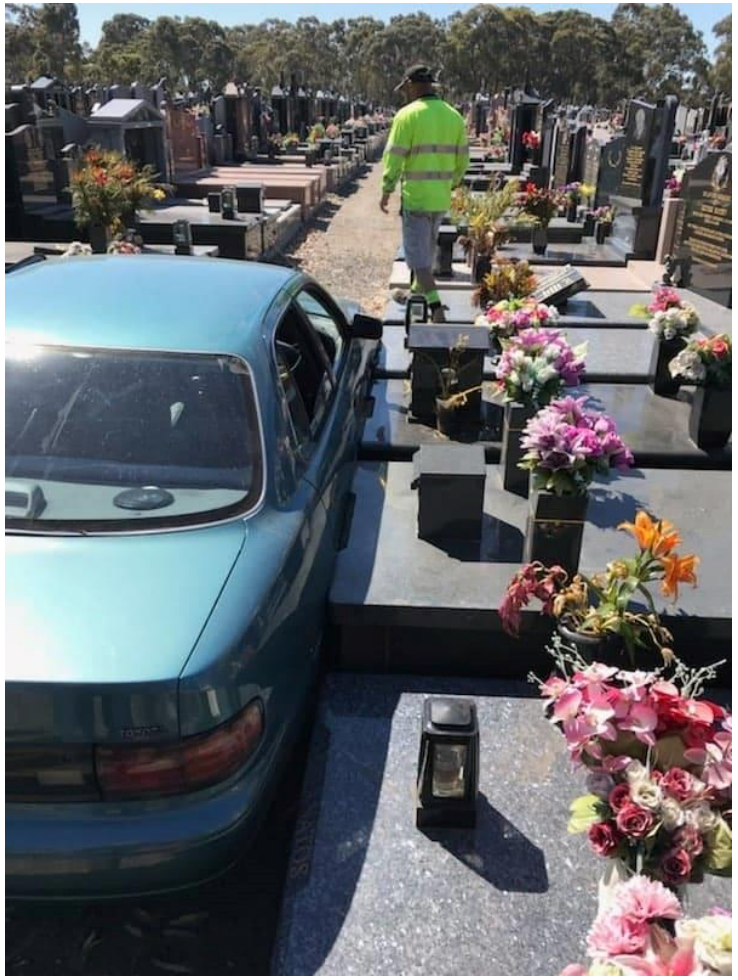
Potential hazards in a cemetery

- Falls
- Collapse
- Machinery
- Faulty Equipment
- Water
- Ground stability
- Weather
- Poor management
- Unsafe co-workers
- Unsafe procedures
- Unsafe Funeral Directors
- Dealing with grief/anger
- Bullying
- Mental health
- Manual handling
- Confined space
- Monuments
- Glass
- Wildlife
- Fire
- Syringes
- Asbestos
- Slopes
- Trip hazards
- Traffic
- Pathogens/biological hazards
- Time limits
- Wrong grave





Traffic

Water


42

Safe?

Hazardous Chemicals

- Embalming products
- Dusts produced from the cremation process
- Gardening Pesticides
- Respirable dusts
- Poisons present in people who have committed suicide
- Cytotoxic drugs used in cancer treatments

Prescribed Infectious Diseases:

- avian influenza in humans,
- diphtheria;
- plague,
- respiratory anthrax;
- smallpox;
- severe acute respiratory syndrome,
- tuberculosis and any viral haemorrhagic fever (including: Lassa, Marburg, Ebola, and Congo-Crimean fevers)

Dept. of Health NSW

Questions?

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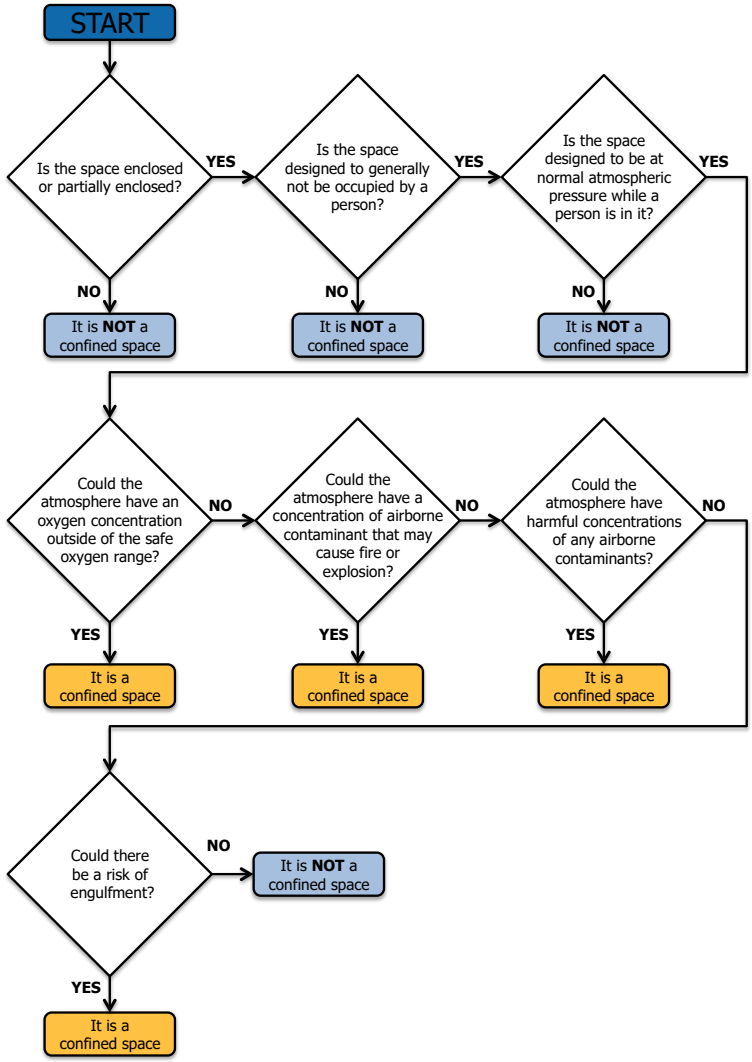
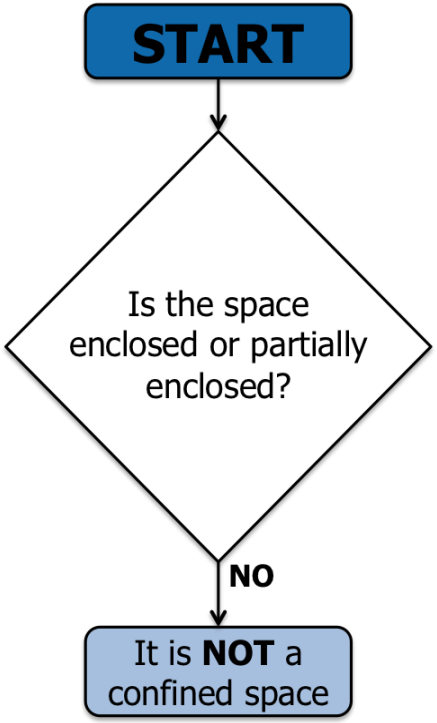
Is the Space a confined Space?

- Is the space enclosed or partially enclosed?
- Is the space likely to be entered and is it at normal atmospheric pressure?
- Does the space have limited or restricted entry or exit?
- Does the space contain it is it intended to contain:
  - A harmful level of atmospheric contaminants?
  - An unsafe oxygen level?
  - Substances that could cause engulfment?

What is a Confined Space?

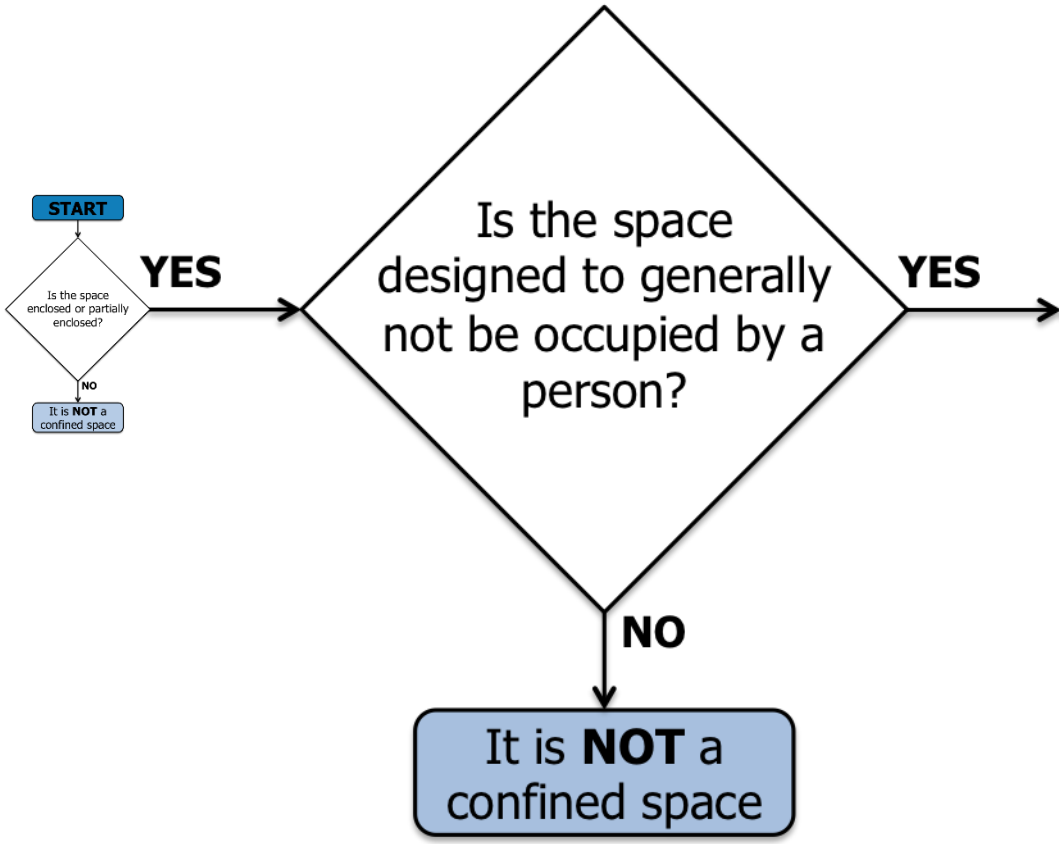
You can use a chart like the one shown to work out if the work area is a confined space.




START
Is the space enclosed or partially enclosed?
NO
It is **NOT** a confined space

YES

What is a Confined Space?



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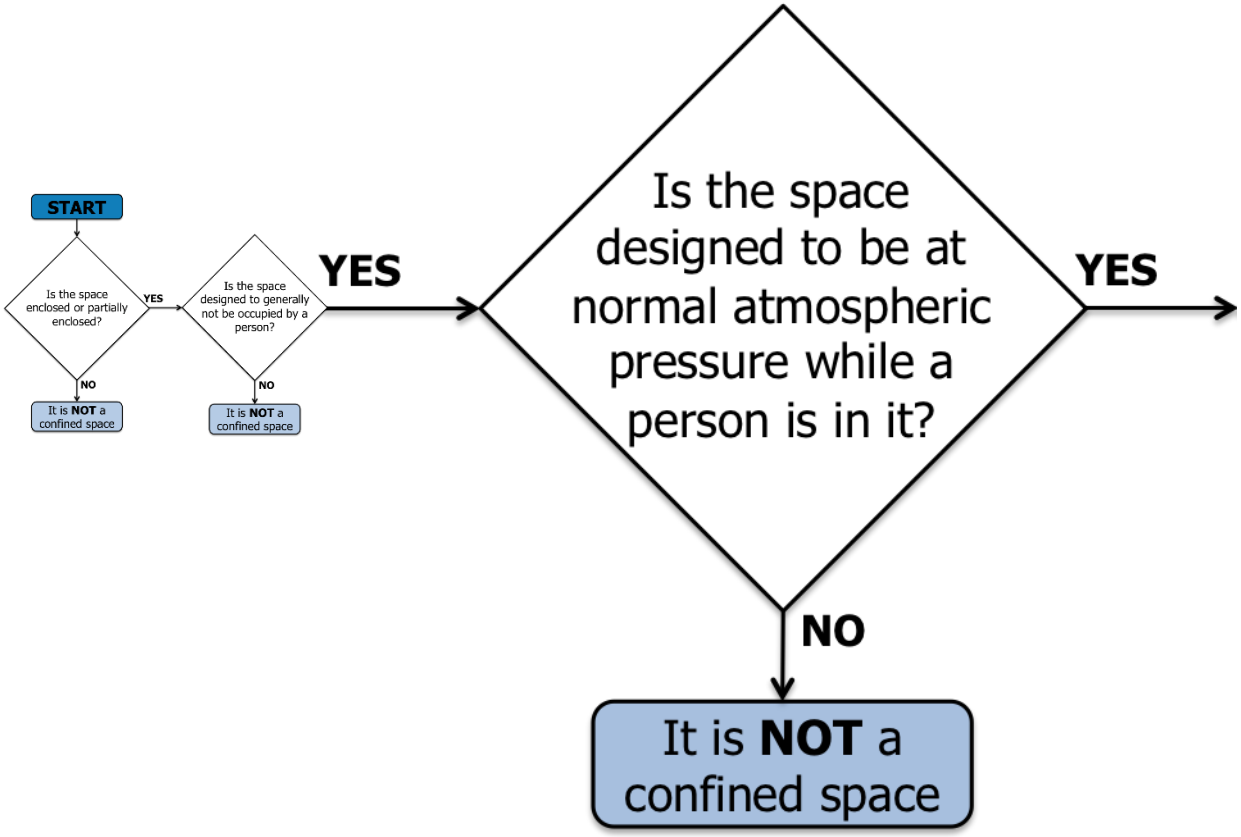

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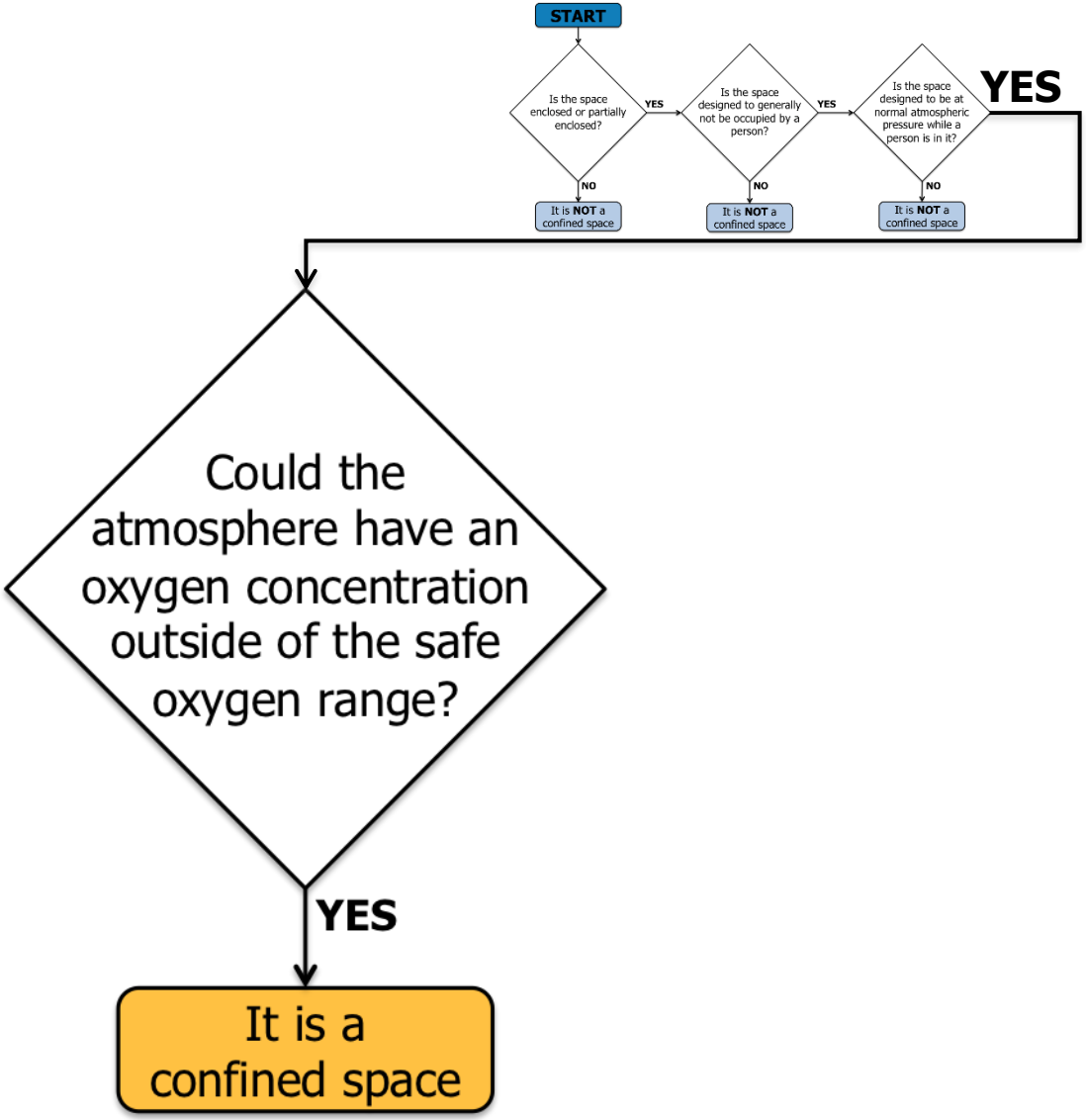

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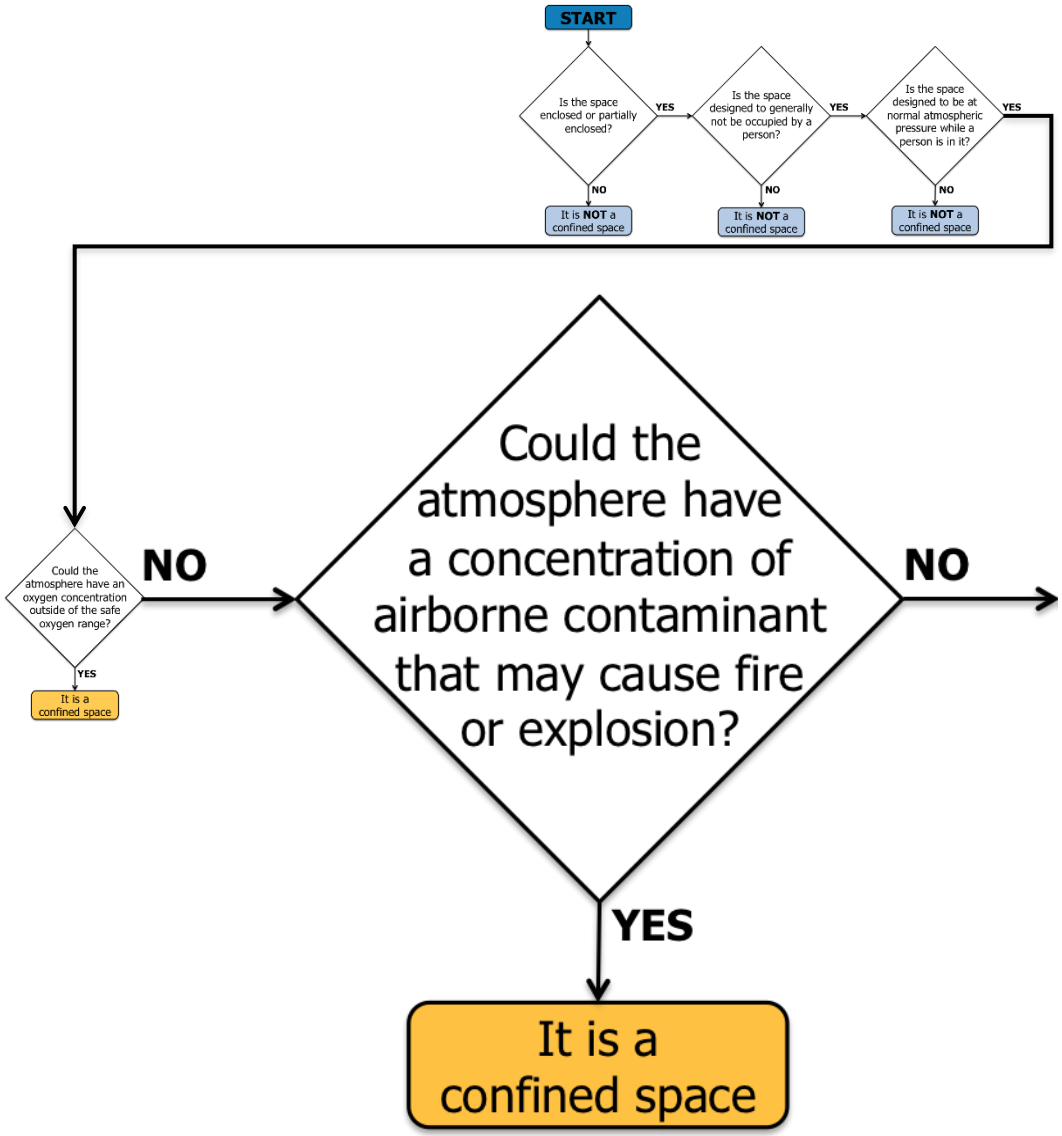

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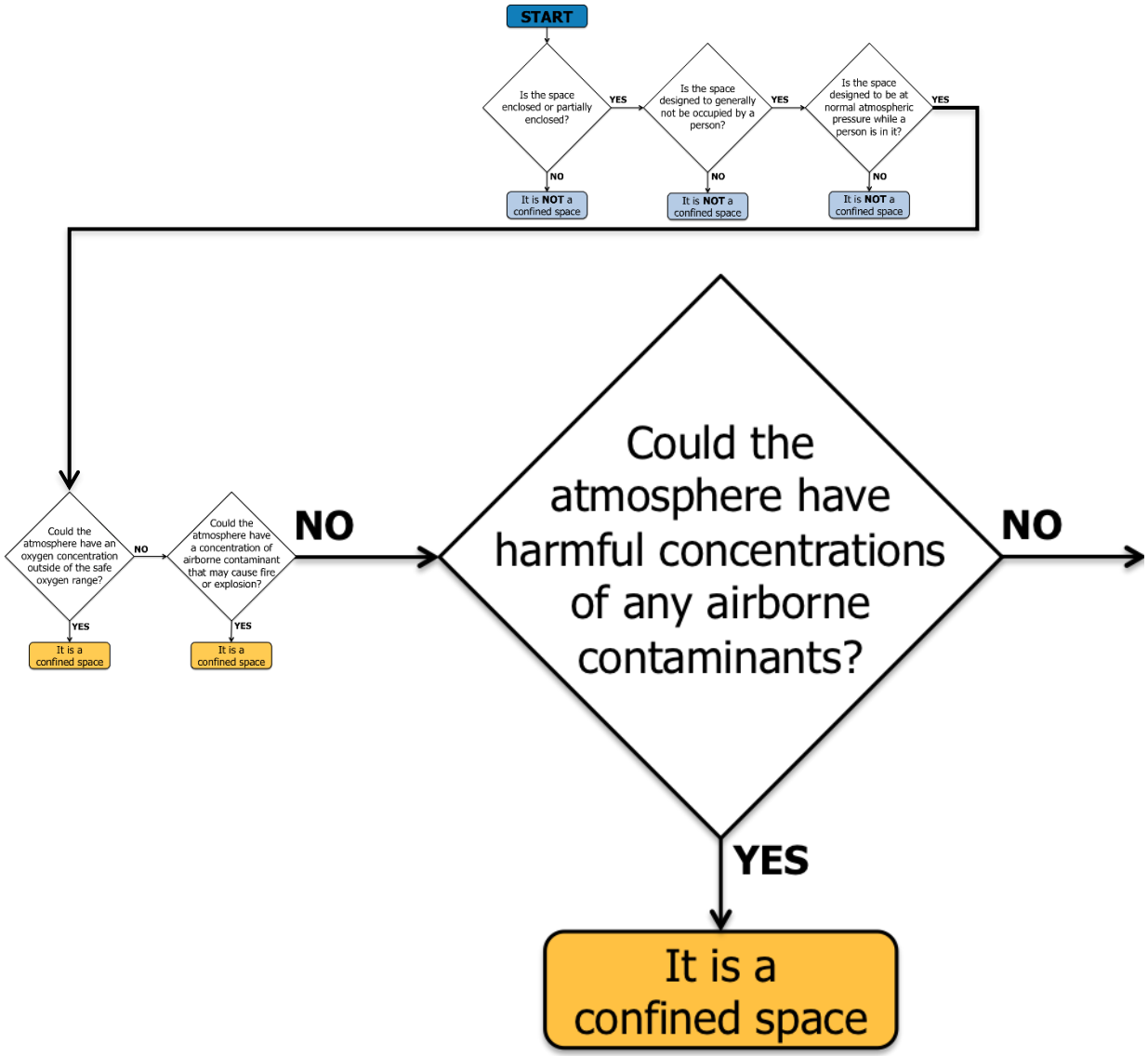

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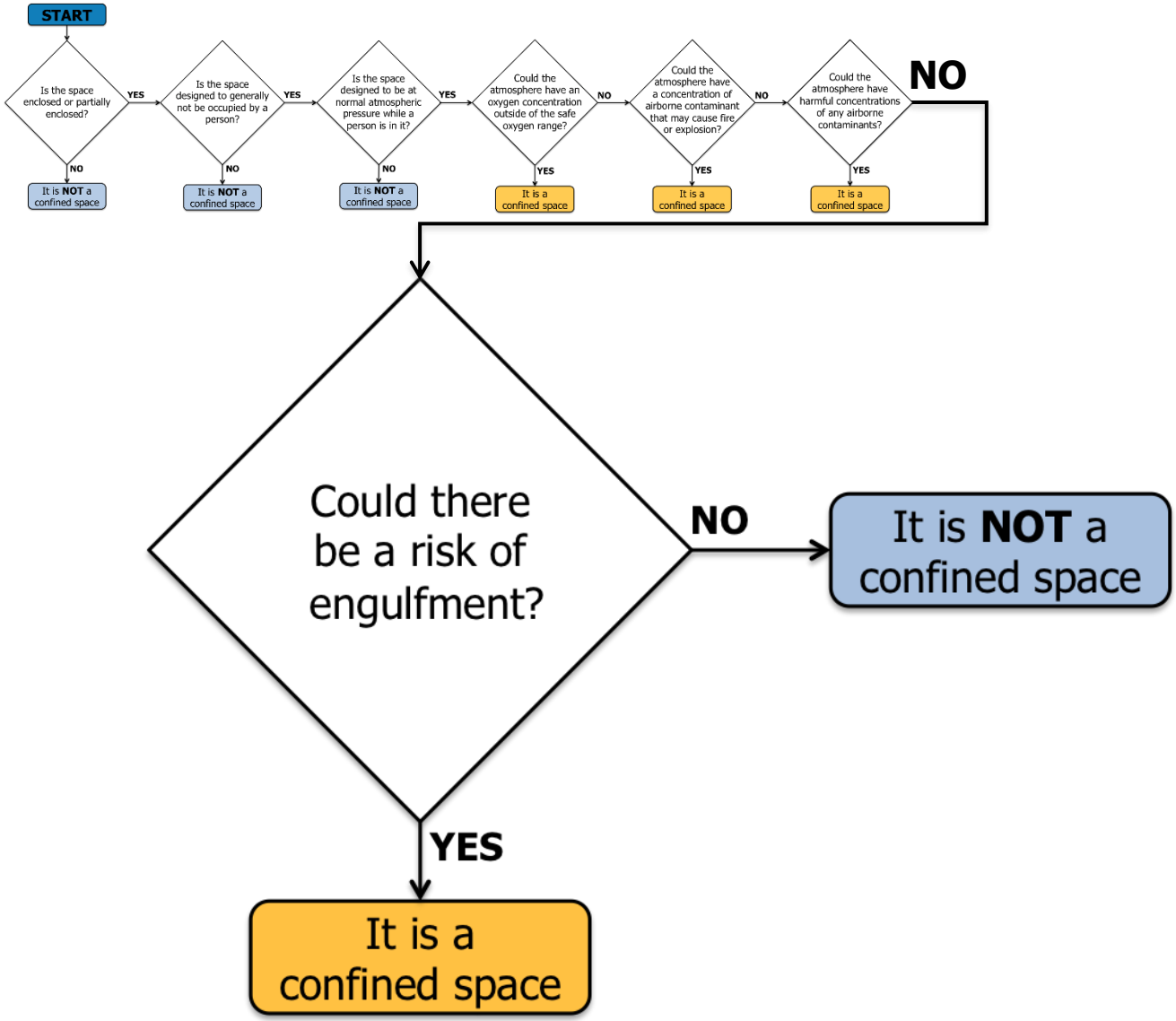

EMERGENCY CONSIDERATIONS

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