



**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DONNA D. HOLADAY, MAYOR**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**NEWBURYPORT WATER DEPARTMENT  
TO PURCHASE TRENCH SHORING EQUIPMENT  
FUNDED THROUGH \$5,000 MIIA LOSS CONTROL GRANT**

Mayor Donna D. Holaday announced today that Newburyport's Water Department will purchase portable trench shoring equipment to help protect City employees who excavate and work in trenches. The equipment will be purchased with a \$5,000 Loss Control Grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the City's property and casualty insurance provider.

Excavating and working in trenches is one of the most hazardous construction conditions for municipal workers as well as the public, according to the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety. The equipment purchased with the MIIA grant will be used to stabilize work areas and prevent soil collapses that may occur when the City workers are in trenches installing or repairing water and drain pipes.

Paul Colby, Superintendent off the City's Water Department was quoted as saying, "the trench shoring system will provide an area of work where the employee is safe from trench cave-ins. Often times, trench walls are weakened from water leaks and construction crew employees must enter the trenches to make repairs. This tool will make for a much safer work environment."

MIIA Loss Control grants are available to its member municipalities who may apply for funds upon recognizing a need in their community. Grants are awarded to fund equipment purchases and to implement training programs that address safety and loss prevention issues. These proactive efforts help avoid accidents and potentially costly claims to protect the City, its employees and citizens.