

Part 503 – Safety

Subpart C – Safety During Geologic Investigations

503.20 General

Geologic investigations can be hazardous to the personnel involved because of the nature of site terrain and equipment used. These conditions require a careful analysis of the investigation process to anticipate and fully evaluate the potential safety hazard that may exist.

503.21 Scope

All NRCS detailed geologic investigation plans must include an assessment of anticipated safety hazards and a schedule of planned precautionary measures, known as the “safety plan.” This plan must include a schedule of safety meetings.

503.22 Hazard Potential

The following potential hazards related to geologic investigations are cited for illustration. This list is not intended to be all inclusive, and site-specific safety evaluations must be made.

- (1) Rock falls and avalanches
- (2) Landslides
- (3) Flash floods
- (4) Overhead utilities
- (5) Underground utilities
- (6) Dead trees and snags
- (7) Pit and trench walls
- (8) Lightning
- (9) Hazards associated with equipment use
- (10) Snakebite and insect bites
- (11) Open test pits or bore holes
- (12) Sinkholes
- (13) Subsidence
- (14) Weak bridges
- (15) Hazardous waste
- (16) Poisonous plants
- (17) Hot and cold weather
- (18) Sunburn