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**Media Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Trench Collapse partially buries worker**

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At 12:23 pm on July 8, 2020, the Faribault Fire Department, Faribault Police Department, Rice County Sheriff's Office, and North Memorial Ambulance responded to a trench collapse with a worker buried up to the chest in front of 1340 Matteson St. in Faribault. Upon our arrival, co-workers had cleared the dirt away from the victim's chest. The victim was conscious and breathing. The victim was the only person in the trench at the time of the collapse.

The trench that the victim was working in was unprotected, so fire crews had to shore up the trench walls before making entry into the trench to begin digging to free the victim. Fire crews worked for approximately an hour and forty-five minutes to free the victim. The victim was alert and talking the entire time and once freed from the weight of the soil, was able to walk to the awaiting stretcher to be transported to the hospital by North Ambulance. Crews cleared the scene at 2:39 pm.

The Faribault Fire Department and the Faribault Police Department performed an initial investigation and documented the scene. Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was contacted. An investigator was dispatched to the scene to meet with the Fire Department and the workers performing the trenching.

Fire Chief Dustin Dienst stated, "Trench rescues are a low-frequency, high-risk operation. Thankfully, we have the equipment and the training to perform this type of rescue. We don't get calls like this very often and I am very happy with the results of this operation, as most trench collapse emergencies don't end this well."