

Excavations Infographic



Trench Safety Tips Can Save a Life

Trench collapses cause fatalities and injuries.
It only takes a second for a trench to collapse. **Take the following precautions to protect workers in trenches.**

The illustration shows a cross-section of a trench. On the left, a worker is standing on the edge, with a speech bubble indicating to keep rocks, soil, materials, and equipment away from the edge. In the center, a worker is using a shovel, with a speech bubble indicating to check with a competent person before entering the trench. On the right, a worker is standing on a ladder, with a speech bubble indicating to never enter a trench that has not been properly inspected. A speech bubble on the left side of the trench indicates to only work in trenches that have cave-in protection. A speech bubble on the right side of the trench indicates that a trench doesn't have to be very deep to be dangerous. A speech bubble at the bottom of the trench indicates to make sure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench.

Keep rocks, soil, materials and equipment away from the edge of the trench.

Check with the competent person before entering a trench:

- ☐ With standing or accumulating water.
- ☐ Where there may be a lack of oxygen or hazardous fumes or vapors.

Never enter a trench that has not been properly inspected. A competent person must inspect the trench and fix problems before work begins.

Only work in trenches that have cave-in protection. Trenches should be shielded/boxed, shored or sloped. Wear your hard hat.

A trench doesn't have to be very deep to be dangerous. A cubic yard of dirt equals the weight of a mid-sized car -- it will crush you!

Make sure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench, such as a ladder, ramp or steps.

Trenching is an important part of any construction project. It involves digging and removing the dirt, forming a narrow depression into the ground, which is then utilized for a variety of projects. That's why it's important to practice proper trenching practices to improve

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