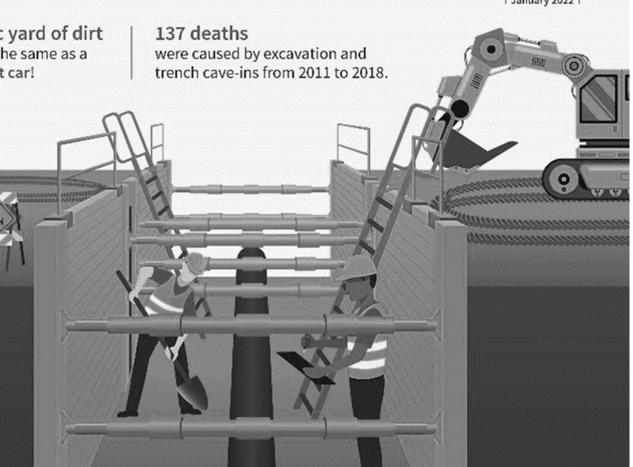
Trenching Safety Infographic



Trench Safety: Before You Dig It, Plan It!

| January 2022 |

1 cubic yard of dirt weighs the same as a compact car!



BEFORE YOU DIG IT, PLAN IT!

- · Assign and train a competent person.
- · Call 811 to identify and mark underground utility lines.
- · Dig a minimum 5 ft away from utility lines.
- Evaluate the soil to determine its stability.
- · Plan the job layout to identify safe locations for spoil piles and heavy equipment routes.
- · Before the job starts, if the trench will be 5 ft or deeper, set up a protective system. If the trench will be 20 ft or deeper, provide engineering protections.
- · Have a traffic control plan and lane closure
- Develop a trench emergency action plan.

WHEN YOU DIG IT, USE CAUTION!

- · Have the competent person inspect the trench, nearby areas, and protective systems each day before the start of work, when conditions change throughout the shift, and after every rainstorm.
- Maintain signs, barriers, and protection around the trench.
- Keep all vehicles and machinery a safe distance from the excavation.
- · Ensure ladders and exits are never more than 25 ft away from any worker in the trench.
- · Remove workers from the excavation upon any evidence that could cause a cave-in.
- Monitor other types of trench-related hazards that can occur, such as falls from the edge, rigging hazards, or toxic and combustible gases, or oxygen deficient conditions.
- · Enforce procedures to ensure that work in an unprotected trench does not occur.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov