

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.**

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

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

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.

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

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

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!

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 safety.

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