

OSHA ALERT

Keep Trenches Safe for Workers

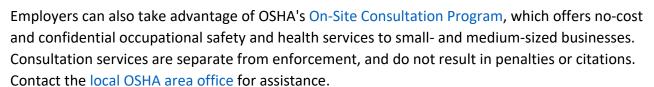
Trench collapses and cave-ins are a serious threat to workers, but they can be prevented. OSHA reminds employers that worker safety is a priority, and the agency has resources available to protect workers.

The following safe work practices will help keep trenches safe for workers:



- Provide safe entry and exit before starting work.
- Keep materials at least 2 feet away from the edge.
- **PROTECT** workers from a cave-in by using protective systems.
 - Sloping or benching trench walls, or
 - Shoring trench wall with supports, or
 - Shielding trench walls with trench boxes.
- **INSPECT** the trench for hazards.
 - Look for standing water and other environmental hazards.
 - Never enter a trench unless it has been inspected and approved by the competent person.

For more information on common hazards, visit OSHA's Trenching and Excavation page.





Trench Safety



OSHA alerts are issued on occasion to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.

