

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 infographic features a central illustration of a deep, dark trench. A worker is shown at the bottom left, and another worker is at the top right. A ladder with a handrail extends from the bottom into the trench. The background shows horizontal layers of earth. Several text boxes provide safety tips:

- 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 site safety.

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