

Trenching and Shoring 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.

A central illustration shows a worker in a deep, dark trench. The worker is wearing a hard hat and safety gear. A ladder with a polka-dot pattern leads down into the trench. Several safety tips are overlaid on the image: a speech bubble at the top left, a sun icon at the top right, and text boxes containing safety instructions. The background shows the layered soil walls of 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.

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

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 worker safety.

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