

# Trench Safety

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|----------------|------|-------------|
| PROJECT / SITE | DATE | TALK LED BY |
|                |      |             |

**THE HAZARD**

The ground becomes workable and the digging starts. A trench collapse gives no warning and a cubic yard of soil weighs about as much as a small car.

**WHAT GOES WRONG**

- Entering an unprotected trench because it is only going to take a minute.
- Spoil piled at the edge, loading the wall it is sitting on.
- Protective system chosen for the wrong soil type, or for the soil as it was last week.
- No ladder within reach, so getting out means climbing the wall.

**CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START**

- Know the depth and the soil type on this dig before anyone goes in.
- Use sloping, benching, shoring or shielding. Pick one and use it correctly.
- Keep spoil, equipment and traffic back from the edge.
- Have a ladder or ramp within easy reach of anyone in the trench.
- Re-inspect after rain, after vibration and at the start of every shift.

**ASK THE CREW**

1. What is the depth and soil type on this specific dig?
2. Which protective system are we using and who checked it this morning?
3. How far back is the spoil pile from the edge?
4. If someone in the trench had to get out fast, how would they?

**ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

| PRINT NAME                    | SIGNATURE |
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| SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON | SIGNATURE |
|                               |           |