



Mission Success Starts With Safety



SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

Safety Presentation

Excavation Safety

August 04, 2022

Excavation and Trenching



Working Safely in Trenches

When done safely, trenching operations can reduce worker exposure to cave-ins, falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and hazards from mobile equipment.



OSHA standards require that trenches and protective systems be inspected daily and as conditions change by a competent person before work begins.

Never enter a trench unless:

- It has been properly inspected by a competent person.
- Cave-in protection measures are in place.
- There is a safe way to enter and exit.
- Equipment and materials are away from the edge.
- It is free of standing water and atmospheric hazards.

Prevent trench collapses:

- Trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system.
- Trenches 20 feet deep or greater require a protective system designed by a registered professional engineer.

Protective systems for trenches:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls by cutting back the trench wall at an angle inclined away from the excavation.
- SHORE trench walls by installing aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement.
- SHIELD trench walls by using trench boxes or other types of supports to prevent soil cave-ins.

For more information:



OSHA® Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

OSHA 3243-109R 2018

- **SCWI-8715-0008, Section 8.12** - Excavation and Trenching (Key Requirements):
 - Known or questionable interferences shall be hand dug or vacuum excavated within six (6) feet of the interferences
 - Dig permit required for excavating/trenching operations deeper than twelve (12) inches
 - SSC soil shall be considered Type C soil unless documented by a competent person
 - Safe access/egress shall be provided every twenty-five (25) feet for excavations/trenches four (4) feet or more deep
 - No excavation in test area on test days
- Fall protection is required where employees can fall six (6) or more feet per **SCWI-8715-0003, Section 5.2**.

Note: The above list does not include all requirements associated with excavation/trenching safety.