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SAFETY TALKS! for PowerPoint

Don't Let a Trench Be Your Grave

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An experienced trench worker

Left his young son fatherless

**Worker in narrow ditch replacing
sewer line**

Wall of dirt collapsed and buried him

Trench was not properly sloped

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This tragedy is familiar but preventable

Trenches five feet deep or more need support

Don't enter unprotected trench

No matter what any supervisor says

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Can you survive trench collapse?

- Many workers don't
- One square yard of dirt weights 3,000 lbs
- Try breathing with this weight on your chest

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Cave-in most common hazard caused by:

- **Weak soil**
- **Vibration from heavy equipment**
- **Water leaking into trench**
- **Soil placed too close to edge**

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Another hazard is toxic gases

- If you suspect “bad air,” stay out
- Low oxygen levels can render you unconscious
- Electrocution another hazard in trenches
- And explosions of natural gas

Daily inspections

By competent person

Inspect trenches at start of each shift

And after rainfall

**Don't forget ladder as safe means
of entry/exit**

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Establish protective systems, including

- **Sloping – cut back trench walls at angle**
- **Shoring – support walls with cross-braces**
- **Shielding – use trench box to prevent collapse**

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