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**SAFETY TALKS!** For Construction

# Don't Get Buried by Your Work

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**Machine-dug areas can have cave-ins**

**Or bring dust and airborne contaminants**

**Digging below chest height brings risks**

**Trenching and excavating involve hazards**

**They cause thousands of injuries**

**Yearly they cause dozens of deaths**

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## Factors make a trench stable or not:

- Soil type
- Weather
- Moisture
- Vibration
- Previous excavation

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## Time is a key to chances of collapse

- Know the type of soil involved
- Hard, dense soil is stronger
- Soft, loose soil gives away easily
- Sloping is one way to protect workers
- Weaker soil requires shallower angle

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## A trench box or shield protects

- The structure withstands forces
- It stands up to a cave-in
- The box shields employees inside
- Trench boxes can be permanent
- Portable ones move with the work

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## Shoring is a metal hydraulic system

- It may also be mechanical
- Other shoring uses a timber system
- Shoring supports sides of excavation
- The goal is to prevent cave-ins
- Shoring supports underground utilities

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**Shoring supports roads and foundations**

**Shoring can be installed from top**

**You don't have to enter the trench**

**Consult a qualified person about shoring**

**Materials and methods are important**

**Learn angle requirements for the job**

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**Have qualified supervision on hand**

**Work in excavation or trench requires it**

**Is digging trenches a non-routine task?**

**That's more reason to do it right**

**Have appropriate personnel present**

**Get trained before doing the work**

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# GENERAL SAFETY

