



## OSHA ALERT ▶▶▶▶

# Trench collapses can be deadly

Trench hazards are well-known, yet far too many workers continue to be injured or killed during excavation work. **Trench collapses**, or cave-ins, are more likely than other excavation-related incidents to result in worker fatalities. **It only takes seconds to become buried in thousands of pounds of soil.**

Trench hazards can be controlled when employers act responsibly, train employees, and follow federal standards. These important steps can keep excavation work safe:

- Ensure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench
- Trenches must have cave-in protection – remember to ***Slope, Shore, Shield***
- Keep materials away from the edge of the trench
- Look for standing water or other environmental hazards, and
- Never enter a trench unless it is properly inspected



Trench Safety PSA ▶▶

## OSHA Wants to Help

For assistance, employers can contact their **local OSHA office** or the **On-Site Consultation Program**.

OSHA news alerts are issued on occasion to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.