



Trenching Safety Resources

New FREE OSHA Material on Trenching Safety

OSHA has released an updated QuickCard and a public service announcement video intended to raise awareness of trenching safety after a recent increase in trench-related worker deaths. According to OSHA, 23 construction workers were killed in trench collapses in 2016. This is more than the combined totals for 2014 and 2015.

Here is a link to the original article in Safety and Health Magazine:

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/17536-new-from-osh-trenching-safety-resources?>

OSHA QuickCard: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/trench/trench_safety_tips_card.pdf

OSHA® QUICK CARD™

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)

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SafeALERTSM



ORCIG 2018 SafeAlert Series

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