

AN UNPROTECTED TRENCH IS AN EARLY GRAVE

Make sure that trenches are protected from cave-ins by:

Sloping or benching trench walls, or

Shoring trench walls with supports, or

Shielding trench walls with trench boxes.



For assistance, contact us. We are OSHA. We can help. It's confidential.

1-800-321-OSHA (6742) TTY 877-889-5627

Inspect trenches at the start of each shift and as needed, throughout the workday.

Provide safe entry and exit through the use of ladders, ramps or stairways.

Know where underground utilities are located before digging.

Keep all equipment, materials and spoil piles at least 2 feet back from trench edges.



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Occupational Safety and Health Administration