Working safely in trenches

Do **NOT** enter an unprotected trench!

Each employee in a trench shall be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system.

Some of the protective systems for trenches are:

- Sloped for stability; or
- Cut to create stepped benched grades; or
- Supported by a system made with posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks; or
- Supported by a trench box to protect workers in a trench.

Additionally, excavated or other materials must be at least 2 feet back from the edge of a trench; and

A safe means of egress shall be provided within 25 feet of workers in a trench.

For more complete information:

[OSHA](https://www.osha.gov) (800) 321-OSHA
TTY (887) 889-5627

OSHA 3243-04R-05