

Working safely in trenches



Do **NOT** enter an unprotected trench!

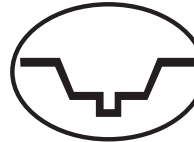
Each employee in a trench shall be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system.

Some of the protective systems for trenches are:

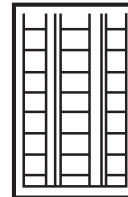
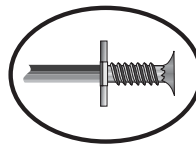
- Sloped for stability; or



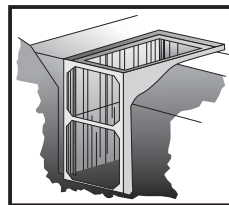
- Cut to create stepped benched grades; or



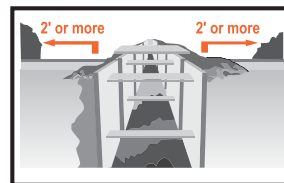
- Supported by a system made with posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks; or



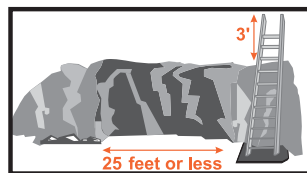
- Supported by a trench box to protect workers in a trench.



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: