

“For Safety’s Sake - Do Something”

Trench Safety

Trenching and excavation work presents serious hazards to all workers involved. Cave-ins pose the greatest risk and are more likely than some other excavation-related incidents to result in worker fatalities. Did you know that one cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a car? According to OSHA, employers must ensure that workers enter trenches only after adequate protections are in place to address cave-in hazards. In addition, other potential hazards associated with trenching work include falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and hazards from mobile equipment.

How can employers prevent cave-ins? OSHA generally requires that employers protect workers from cave-ins by:

- Sloping and benching the sides of the excavation.
- Supporting the sides of the excavation.
- Placing a shield between the side of the excavation and the work area.

For detailed information on workers’ rights, trench safety, and incident prevention visit: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/trenchingexcavation/>



Trench Safety Stand Down Week

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), with full support of OSHA, is requesting all contractors, municipalities, military, and others involved with trenching operations to hold a Trench Safety Stand Down during the week of June 19-24, 2017.

Accidents caused by cave-ins and other trenching hazards often lead to fatalities and serious injuries, which are preventable.

What is a Safety Stand Down?

A Safety Stand Down presents the opportunity for employers to talk directly to employees and others about safety. These Stand Downs will focus on trench and excavation hazards, and reinforce the importance of using trench protective systems and protecting workers from trenching hazards.

Stand Down Goals

The goal is to reach out to the many workers who work in and around trenches and excavations to provide them with information about current excavation requirements and safety procedures for working in trenches.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nuca.com/tssd>