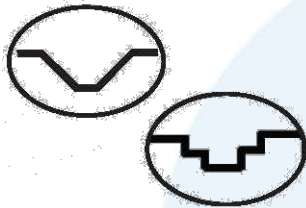


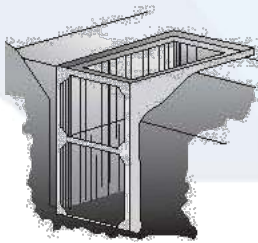
Working Safely In Trenches

Two workers are killed every month in trench collapses. Each worker in a trench needs to be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system. Cave-ins pose the greatest risk and are much more likely than other excavation-related accidents to result in worker fatalities. Other potential hazards include falls, falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and incidents involving mobile equipment. One cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a car.

- **Sloped or stepped bench** grades can help create more stability.



- **A support system** using materials like beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks can also be used to protect workers.
- **A trench box** will help to shield any workers who are in a trench.



- Trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system unless the excavation is made entirely in stable rock.
- Trenches 20 feet deep or greater require that the protective system be designed by a registered professional engineer or be based on tabulated data prepared and/or approved by a registered professional engineer.

- Excavated or other materials and equipment must be at least two feet back from the edge of a trench.



- You must also provide a safe exit within 25 feet of workers who are in a trench.



- A competent person must also inspect trenches daily and when conditions change.
- A competent person is an individual who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards or working conditions that are hazardous, unsanitary, or dangerous to workers, soil types and protective systems required, and who is authorized to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate these hazards and conditions
- Do not enter an unprotected trench. An unprotected trench is an early grave.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: fwcruminsurance.com