



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM  
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November 2006

## **SIP TIP: Trenching and Excavations**

### **EATON TOWNSHIP, Ohio --**

Firefighters from Lorain and Cuyahoga County specially trained in trench rescue helped emergency workers save a construction worker trapped up to his neck in a trench collapse. The company doing the work on a water main was not affiliated with any union and OSHA is investigating numerous violations.



**This was very preventable!**

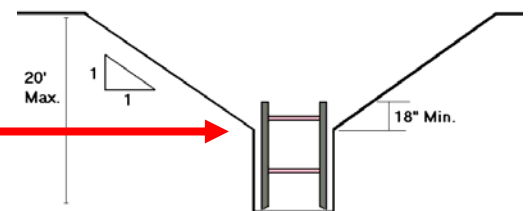
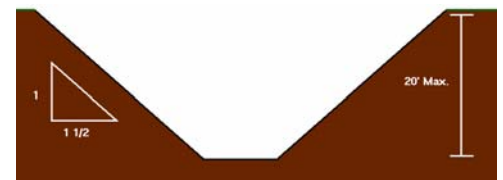
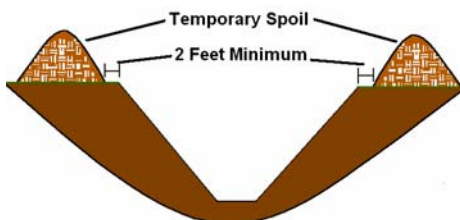
**Trench and excavation collapses cause dozens of fatalities and hundreds of injuries every year. Do not enter an unprotected trench or excavation.**

OSHA regulations require the following to be present at ALL excavations or trenches:

Excavations or trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system.

The walls of the excavation or trench must be one of the following:

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



- An exit ladder must be within 25 feet of workers.
- Keep spoils at least 2 feet from edge of trench.

**Remember: Make sure trenches are inspected by a competent person prior to entry and after rain falls, vibrations from construction equipment, nearby traffic or trains.**