



Trenching and Excavation Safety

Trench collapses, or cave-ins, pose the greatest risk to workers' lives. When done safely, trenching operations can reduce worker exposure to other potential hazards include falls, falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and incidents involving mobile equipment.

OSHA standards require that employers provide workplaces free of recognized hazards. The employer must comply with the trenching and excavation requirements of 29 CFR 1926.651 and 1926.652 or comparable OSHA-approved state plan requirements.

Guide for Daily Inspection of Trenches and Excavations

Project:

Weather:

Soil Type:

Type of Protective System: **Is Tabulated Data on site?**

Date: **Time:**

Trench Depth:

Width:

Length:

Yes	No	NA	Excavation
			Excavations and Protective Systems inspected by <u>Competent Person</u> daily, before start of work.
			<u>Competent Person</u> has authority to remove workers from excavation immediately.
			Surface encumbrances supported or removed.
			Employees protected from loose rock or soil.
			Hard hats worn by all employees.
			Spoils, materials, and equipment set back a minimum of 2' from edge of excavation.
			Barriers provided at all remote excavations, wells, pits, shafts, etc.
			Walkways and bridges over excavations 6' or more in depth equipped with guardrails.
			Warning vests, or other highly visible PPE provided and worn by all employees exposed to vehicular traffic.
			Employees prohibited from working or walking under suspended loads.
			Employees prohibited from working on faces of sloped or benched excavations above other employees.
			Warning system established and used when mobile equipment is operating near edge of excavation.

Yes	No	NA	Utilities
			Utility companies contacted and/or utilities located.

Yes	No	NA	Utilities
			Exact location of utilities marked when near excavation.
			Underground installations protected, supported, or removed when excavation is open.

Yes	No	NA	Wet Conditions
			Precautions taken to protect employees from accumulation of water.
			Water removal equipment monitored by <u>Competent Person</u> .
			Surface water controlled or diverted.
			Inspection made after each rainstorm.

Yes	No	NA	Hazardous Atmosphere
			Atmosphere tested when there is a possibility of oxygen deficiency or build-up of hazardous gases.
			Oxygen content is between 19.5% and 21%.
			Ventilation provided to prevent flammable gas build-up to 20% of lower explosive limit of the gas.
			Testing conducted to ensure that atmosphere remains safe.
			Emergency Response Equipment readily available where a hazardous atmosphere could or does exist.
			Employees trained in the use of Personal Protective and Emergency Response Equipment.

Yes	No	NA	Hazardous Atmosphere
			Safety harness and life line individually attended when employees enter deep confined excavation.

Signature of Competent Person:

Date:
