



**Cal/OSHA, DOT HAZMAT, EEOC,
EPA, HAZWOPER, HIPAA, IATA,
IMDG, TDG, MSHA, OSHA, and
Canada OHS Regulations and
Safety Online Training**

Since 2008

This document is provided as a training aid
and may not reflect current laws and regulations.

Be sure and consult with the appropriate governing agencies
or publication providers listed in the "Resources" section of our website.

www.ComplianceTrainingOnline.com



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



OSHA ALERT

Keep Trenches Safe for Workers

Trench collapses and cave-ins are a serious threat to workers, but they can be prevented. OSHA reminds employers that worker safety is a priority, and the agency has resources available to protect workers.

The following safe work practices will help keep trenches safe for workers:

- **PREPARE** a *safe trench*.
 - Provide safe entry and exit before starting work.
 - Keep materials at least 2 feet away from the edge.
- **PROTECT** workers from a cave-in by using *protective systems*.
 - Sloping or benching trench walls, or
 - Shoring trench wall with supports, or
 - Shielding trench walls with trench boxes.
- **INSPECT** the trench for *hazards*.
 - Look for standing water and other environmental hazards.
 - Never enter a trench unless it has been inspected and approved by the competent person.



Trench Safety

For more information on common hazards, visit OSHA's [Trenching and Excavation](#) page.

Employers can also take advantage of OSHA's [On-Site Consultation Program](#), which offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small- and medium-sized businesses. Consultation services are separate from enforcement, and do not result in penalties or citations. Contact the [local OSHA area office](#) for assistance.



OSHA alerts are issued on occasion to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.