

Safety Brief: Excavation/Trench Work

Rules and Requirements

- Working in and Around Excavations and Trenches
 - Always protect the public or other trades workers
 - Protect all topside edges regardless of depth with delineators and yellow rope
 - Never enter an unprotected trench over 5' deep
 - Every trench over 5' deep from its lowest point must have shoring or be benched 5' vertically and 4' horizontally or sloped at 34 degrees unless the soil type allows for more
 - When trenches over 18" deep cross the established egress path, a bridge across must be provided.
 - Provide guard rails on the bridge when the trench is over 4' deep and wider than 3'
 - Provide a ladder, ramp or stairs out of any excavation or trench every 25' that is over 3' deep
 - When the trench is 6' or deeper fall protection leading edge rules apply
 - Spoils piles and vehicles must be a minimum of 2' back from the edge of the excavation or trench