



Need to Know- Trenching & Excavations



TRENCHING & EXCAVATIONS

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PA OSHA CONSULTATION

Remember....

Locate underground utilities before breaking ground
The "competent person" must choose and implement a protective system
Even excavations less than 5-feet deep also need to be deemed safe by the competent person
Never enter an unprotected trench that is 5-feet or more in depth
Structures become unstable when earth next to them is removed, ensure they are supported
Soil piles should be kept 2 feet back (minimum)

Cave-ins can happen without warning
Also be sure to consider:

- Nearby mobile equipment
- Hazardous atmospheres
- Potential for water accumulation
- Safe Access

Work defensively

Follow your company's excavation and trenching safety rules

Correct the hazards you are able to correct and report to your supervisor the hazards you are unable to correct