

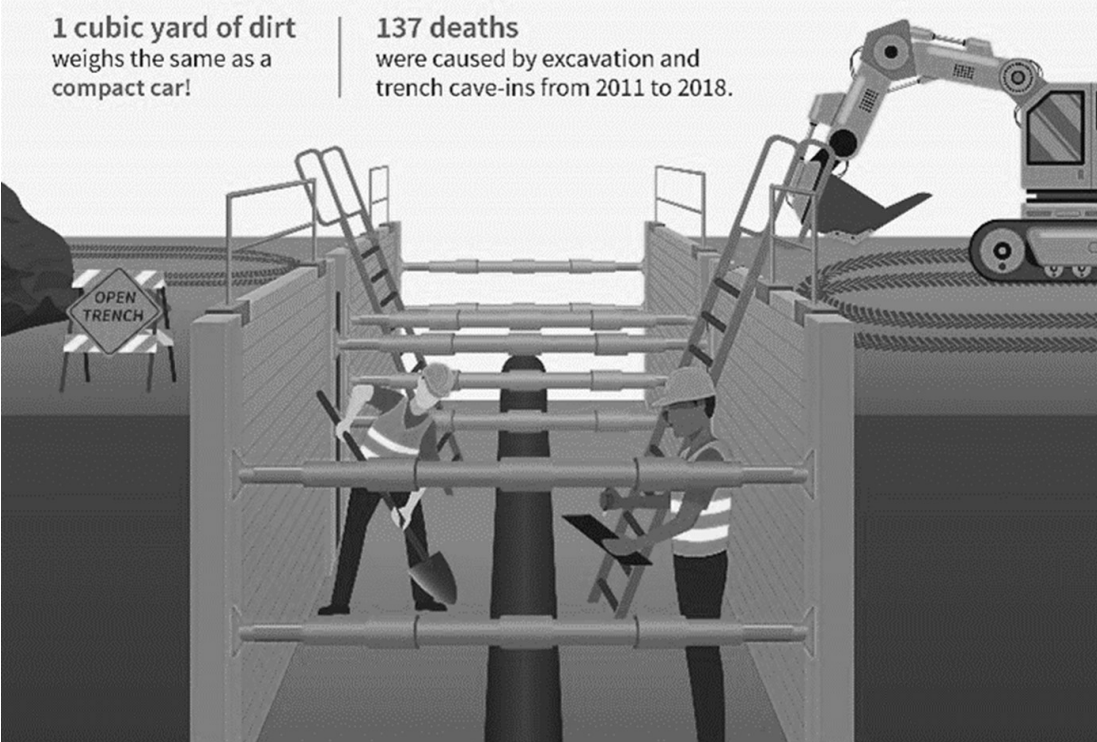
Trenching Safety Infographic

Trench Safety: Before You Dig It, Plan It!

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1 cubic yard of dirt weighs the same as a compact car!

137 deaths were caused by excavation and trench cave-ins from 2011 to 2018.

An illustration of a trenching site. Two workers wearing hard hats and safety vests are inside a trench. One worker is using a shovel, and the other is holding a clipboard. The trench is supported by a system of horizontal shoring pipes. An excavator is visible at the top right of the trench. A yellow diamond-shaped sign with the words 'OPEN TRENCH' is placed on the left side of the trench. The background shows a construction site with dirt and some equipment.

BEFORE YOU DIG IT, PLAN IT!

- Assign and train a competent person.
- Call 811 to identify and mark underground utility lines.
- Dig a minimum 5 ft away from utility lines.
- Evaluate the soil to determine its stability.
- Plan the job layout to identify safe locations for spoil piles and heavy equipment routes.
- Before the job starts, if the trench will be 5 ft or deeper, set up a protective system. If the trench will be 20 ft or deeper, provide engineering protections.
- Have a traffic control plan and lane closure permits.
- Develop a trench emergency action plan.

WHEN YOU DIG IT, USE CAUTION!

- Have the competent person inspect the trench, nearby areas, and protective systems each day before the start of work, when conditions change throughout the shift, and after every rainstorm.
- Maintain signs, barriers, and protection around the trench.
- Keep all vehicles and machinery a safe distance from the excavation.
- Ensure ladders and exits are never more than 25 ft away from any worker in the trench.
- Remove workers from the excavation upon any evidence that could cause a cave-in.
- Monitor other types of trench-related hazards that can occur, such as falls from the edge, rigging hazards, or toxic and combustible gases, or oxygen deficient conditions.
- Enforce procedures to ensure that work in an unprotected trench does not occur.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov>