



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Trench Collapses Can Be Deadly Safety Message

Trench hazards are well-known, yet far too many workers continue to be injured or killed during excavation work. Just last week a worker was trapped for nearly 4 hours in Indianapolis. Trench collapses, or cave-ins, are more likely than other excavation-related incidents to result in worker fatalities. It only takes seconds to become buried in thousands of pounds of soil.

Trench hazards can be controlled when employers act responsibly, train employees, and follow federal standards. These important steps can keep excavation work safe:

- Ensure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench
- Trenches must have cave-in protection – remember to Slope, Shore, Shield
- Keep materials away from the edge of the trench
- Look for standing water or other environmental hazards, and
- Never enter a trench unless it is properly inspected