

**Two Workers  
Are Killed  
Every Month  
in Trench  
Collapses!**

**One Cubic Yard  
of Soil Can  
Weigh As Much  
As A Car.**



# AN UNPROTECTED TRENCH IS AN EARLY GRAVE

**Make sure that trenches are protected from cave-ins by:**

Sloping or benching trench walls, or

Shoring trench walls with supports, or

Shielding trench walls with trench boxes.



*Photo courtesy of Speed Shore Corp.*

**Inspect trenches at the start of each shift and as needed, throughout the workday.**

Provide safe entry and exit through the use of ladders, ramps or stairways.

Know where underground utilities are located before digging.

Keep all equipment, materials and spoil piles at least 2 feet back from trench edges.



U.S. Department of Labor

**For assistance, contact us.  
We are OSHA. We can help.  
It's confidential.**

**1-800-321-OSHA (6742)  
TTY 877-889-5627  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)**

**OSHA<sup>®</sup>**  
**Occupational Safety  
and Health Administration**