



## 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