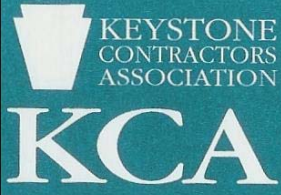


# KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Trench Safety



TEAMWORK  
IMPROVES SAFETY

## Signatures

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When a trench caves in, the weight of the dirt can trap and kill workers. One cubic yard of dirt can weigh 3,000 pounds or more. Each year, trench collapses seriously injure or kill construction workers. In 2016, for example, 23 workers were killed in trench collapses.

**Three Laborers' Story** Three laborers were working in an 8-foot-high wall trench. The walls had not been shored up. One side caved in, burying one worker and partially burying another. The third man managed to escape unharmed. The partially buried man was pulled out, but the buried worker suffocated and died.

1. Why did this accident happen?
2. How could it have been prevented?
3. Have you or someone you know been in a trench cave-in? If so, what happened?

## Remember:

- Never enter an unprotected or uninspected trench, even for a short task. A trained, certified person must inspect the trench and surroundings first.
- Never work alone in a trench. Make sure you understand your employer's trench emergency program.
- Make sure rocks and dirt are kept at least 2 feet away from the top of the trench.
- Make sure trench protection is provided. OSHA allows benching or sloping ground, shoring, or shielding with supports or trench boxes.

For more information visit OSHA REGULATION: 1926.651(k)(1)

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***Teamwork Improves Safety!***

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