



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Business News

*A force for positive change in the design / construction industry*

### **10/09/2018 – Eye Towards Safety (Trenching)**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, excavation and trench-related fatalities in 2016 were nearly double the average of the previous five years. OSHA has made reducing trenching and excavation hazards the Agency's Priority Goal. Trench collapses, or cave-ins, pose the greatest risk to workers' lives. To prevent cave-ins:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls
- SHORE trench walls with supports, or
- SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes

Employers should also ensure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench. Keep materials away from the edge of the trench. Look for standing water or atmospheric hazards. Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected. For more: [29 CFR 1926.650](#), [29 CFR 1926.651](#), and [29 CFR 1926.652](#) are applicable OSHA standards. Visit Construction, <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/trenchingexcavation/construction.html>