

Trenching and Excavation:

Spoil-Pile Placement

Excavated material (spoils) at your site are hazardous if they are set too close to the edge of a trench/excavation. The weight of the spoils can cause a cave-in, or spoils and equipment can roll back on top of workers, causing serious injuries or death.

How Do I Avoid Hazards?

Provide protection by one or more of the following:

- Set spoils and equipment at least 2 feet back from the excavation.
- Use retaining devices, such as a trench box, that will extend above the top of the trench to prevent equipment and spoils from falling back into the excavation.
- Where the site does not permit a 2-foot set back, spoils may need to be temporarily hauled to another location.



The spoil pile is required to be at least 2 feet from the edge of the trench and/or retained to prevent it from falling into the trench.