



Toolbox TALK

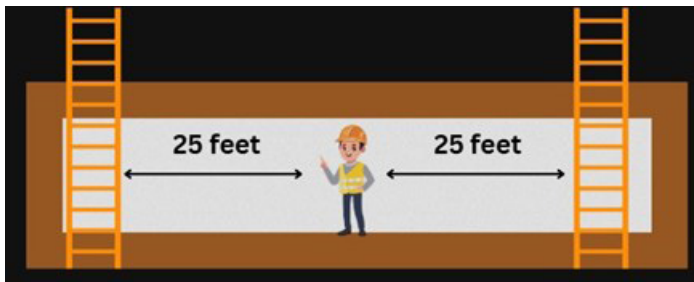


5-4-3-2-1 OF EXCAVATION SAFETY

The 5-4-3-2-1 rule outlines the critical safety measures to follow when working in and around trenches and excavations. Excavation work can be dangerous, but following these guidelines can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. By adhering to these principles, workers not only protect themselves but also enforce compliance with industry standards, as each 5-4-3-2-1 number corresponds to an OSHA standard.

5: Protective Systems – 1926.652(a)

The OSHA standard requires an adequate protective system for trenches/excavations with a depth of 5 feet or more to prevent cave-ins. Protective systems can include benching, sloping, shoring, or trench boxes. When a trench box is used as a protective system, the employees and access should always remain within the confines of the box when conducting work.



4: Access and Egress – 1926.651(c)(2)

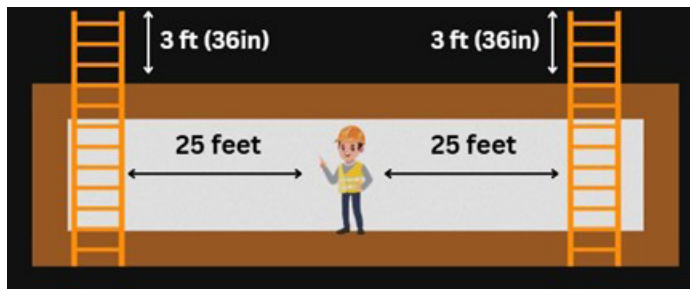
Employees must have a means of access and egress when an excavation is 4 feet or deeper. Ladders or means of access/egress must be within 25 feet of lateral travel from employees.

REVIEW

5-4-3-2-1 OF EXCAVATION SAFETY

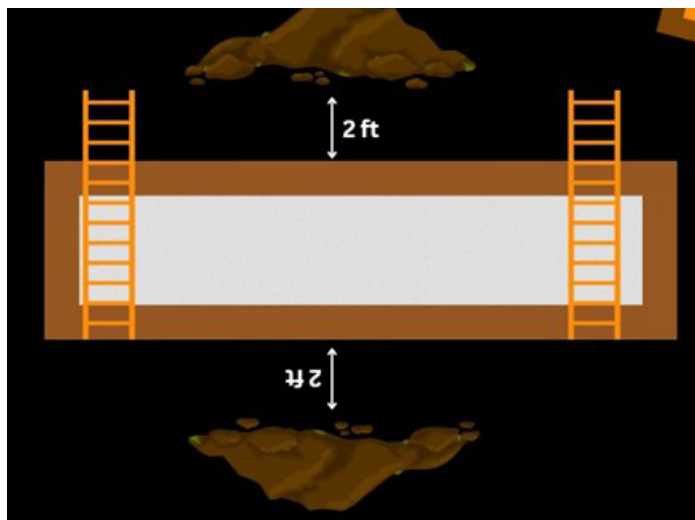
3: Access and Egress – 1926.651(c)

Ladders must be secured, extended to three rungs above the landing, and tied off. Extension ladders should be used for access instead of a portable A-frame ladder.



2: Spoil Piles and Equipment – 1926.651(j)

Excavation material and equipment should be kept at least 2 feet from the edge of the trench to prevent them from falling in.



1: Scope and Definition – 1926.650

Each trench/excavation must have at least one competent person on site to identify and control hazards.

Date:

ATTENDANCE RECORD

SUPERVISOR:

CREW MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK: