

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 5 - No 14 EGRESS FROM TRENCHES

Any time you work in a trench, chances are you will need a ladder. Employees should not have to crawl or climb out of trenches regardless if they are healthy and capable of doing it. There may come a time when due to a trench collapse / failure that they will need an emergency exit. Because of such emergencies, OSHA has set 25 feet as the maximum distance to the nearest ladder. This may require that more than one ladder be placed in a trench. One ladder covers 50 feet of distance since 25 feet applies to either side of the ladder.

The depth of 4 feet was selected by OSHA as the maximum depth an employee can work in a trench before a ladder is required. To be safe, an employer should require his employees to place ladders in the trenches at a depth of 3 feet. Since trenches are never uniform in depth there might be a low spot which could result in a fine.

Finally the ladder must extend out of the top of the trench at least 3 feet. The purpose is to give the employee something to hold onto while getting to ground level. The ladder must also be secured to prevent accidental displacement during use.

Remember, trench safety is a serious matter.



29 CFR 1926.651 (C)(2)
MEANS OF EGRESS FROM TRENCH EXCAVATIONS
A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress (exit) shall be located in trench excavations that are 4 feet or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet of lateral travel for employees.

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

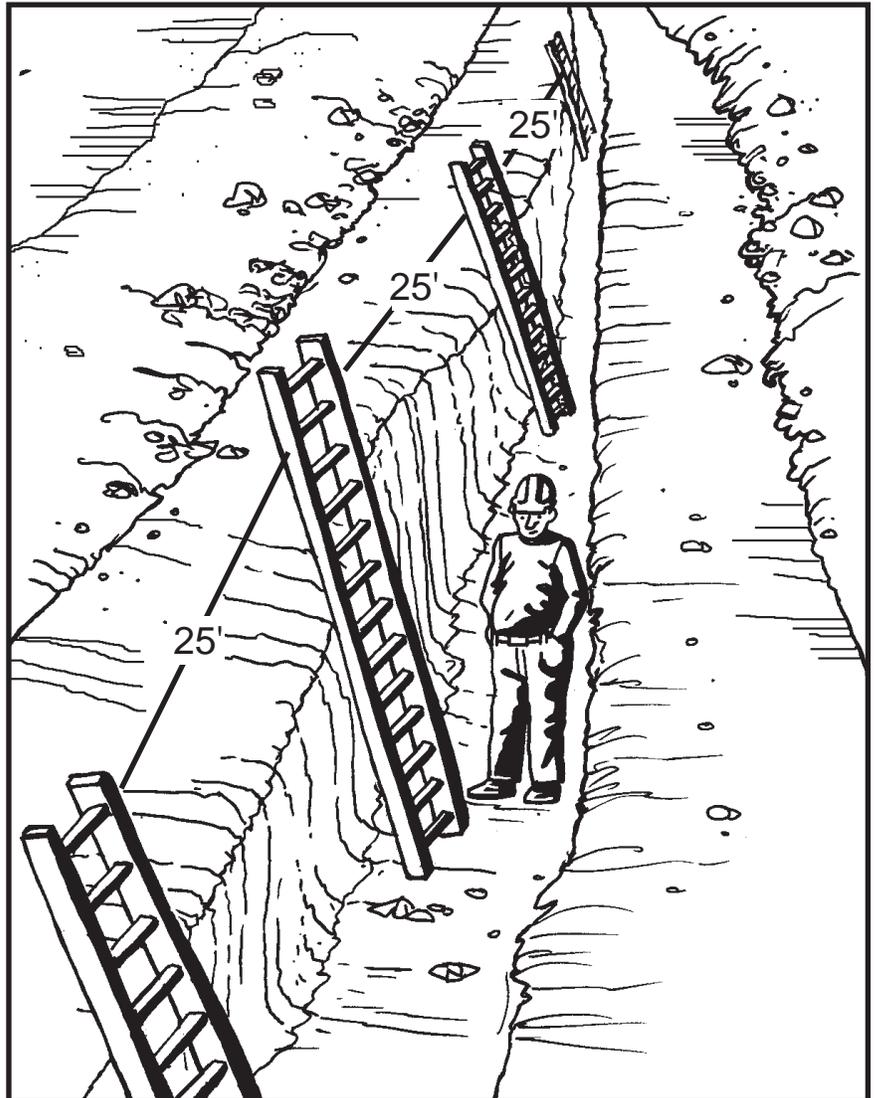
Vol 5 - No 14 EGRESS FROM TRENCHES

Any time you work in a trench, chances are you will need a ladder. Employees should not have to crawl or climb out of trenches regardless if they are healthy and capable of doing it. There may come a time when due to a trench collapse / failure that they will need an emergency exit. Because of such emergencies, OSHA has set 25 feet as the maximum distance to the nearest ladder. This may require that more than one ladder be placed in a trench. One ladder covers 50 feet of distance since 25 feet applies to either side of the ladder.

The depth of 4 feet was selected by OSHA as the maximum depth an employee can work in a trench before a ladder is required. To be safe, an employer should require his employees to place ladders in the trenches at a depth of 3 feet. Since trenches are never uniform in depth there might be a low spot which could result in a fine.

Finally the ladder must extend out of the top of the trench at least 3 feet. The purpose is to give the employee something to hold onto while getting to ground level. The ladder must also be secured to prevent accidental displacement during use.

Remember, trench safety is a serious matter.



29 CFR 1926.651 (C)(2)
MEANS OF EGRESS FROM TRENCH EXCAVATIONS
A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress (exit) shall be located in trench excavations that are 4 feet or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet of lateral travel for employees.