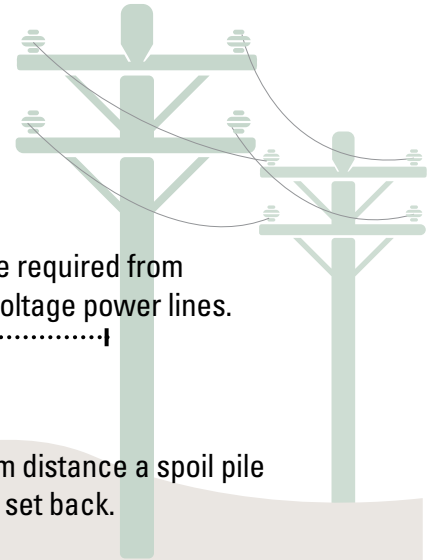


Trench Safety By the Numbers

For the complete regulations and exceptions, refer to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-155-650.

US Trench Fatalities	
2018:	17
2019:	21
2020:	21



Distance required from 50,000-voltage power lines.

10^{ft}

Minimum distance a spoil pile must be set back.

2^{ft}

Minimum distance a ladder must be above the trench box or grade.

3^{ft}

Depth at which a stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress and a protection system becomes mandatory.

4^{ft}

3000 lbs
Average weight of one cubic yard of soil.

Depth at which fall protection is required around a trench.

10^{ft}

Maximum depth at which sloping and benching may be used as a protective system.

20^{ft}

Sloping/benching for excavations greater than 20 feet deep must be designed by a registered professional engineer.

Maximum horizontal distance to a means of egress.

25^{ft}



FY21-337



Division of Occupational Safety and Health



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