



# TRENCHING



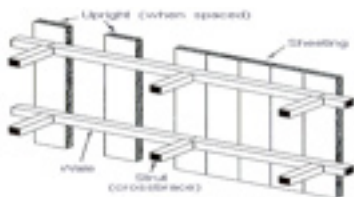
An excavation is any man-made cut, cavity, trench or depression in an earth surface that is formed by earth removal. A trench is a narrow excavation where the depth is greater than the width, and the width is not greater than 15 feet.

Whenever performing excavations, extreme care must be taken so that underground utilities are not damaged. Always Use "One Call" service to have utilities located and marked to avoid injury or interruption of service to the job.

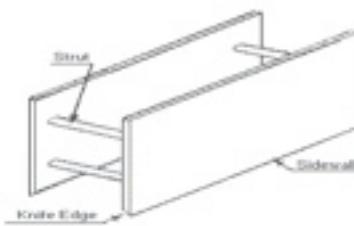
## Basic Guidelines for Trenching:

- Trenches > 4' in depth must have fixed means of exit (ladder).
- Trenches > 5' should be shored or sloped to protect workers.
- Excavated material should be stored and retained at least 2 feet from the edge of the excavation.
- All sides of the trench should be barricaded to prevent other workers from falls.
- Dependent on the length and width of the trench, walk boards or bridges should be placed in way of travel paths to reduce the potential for falls.

## Two Basic Protective Systems for Trenching:



Shoring should be used when sloping is not practical



Trench boxes are best to protect against cave-ins.