Always follow correct procedures.

Never take short cuts.

Clean up your mess.

Be alert and awake on the job.

Be attentive to your surrounds.

When in doubt contact your manager.

Never take risks.

Obey safety signs.

Take short breaks.

Report near misses.

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Can you identify the safety violations in this picture? Test Your Knowledge.

Answer: Lack of Eye and Face Protection, and Machine Guarding.
Working Safely in Trenches

Two workers are killed every month in trench collapses. Each worker in a trench shall be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system. Some of the protective systems for trenches are:

- Sloped for stability; or
- Cut to create stepped benched grades (Type A or B soil only); or
- Supported by a system made with materials such as posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks; or
- Shielded by a trench box to protect workers in a trench.

Excavated or other materials and equipment must be at least 2 feet back from the edge of a trench; and

A safe way to exit must be provided within 25 feet of workers in a trench.

A competent person must inspect trenches daily and when conditions change. An unprotected trench is an early grave. Do not enter an unprotected trench.

For more information:

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U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)
TTY (887) 889-5627