Sample Construction Co.

Elm Street storm drain, 1400 Elm St, Round Rock, TX

Toolbox talk sign-in

Record TBT-2026-012



Trenches: a cubic yard of dirt weighs as much as a car

Caught-in / between, 29 CFR 1926.651(c)(2), (j)(2), (k); 1926.652(a)(1); App. A

What we covered

Trench collapses kill about two workers a month in the U.S., and almost every one was in a trench 5 feet or deeper with no protective system. The dirt comes in faster than you can react and it doesn't let go.

Three points from the talk

1. **5 feet deep or more:** sloped, benched, shored, or a trench box. No exceptions for 'just a minute'.
2. The competent person inspects at the start of every shift and after rain, vibration, or any change, and classifies the soil. Assume Type C unless they tested it.
3. **Spoil piles and equipment stay 2 feet back from the edge.** The weight loads the wall.

Date: Tue, Oct 6, 2026

Signed: 6:53–6:59 AM

Led by: **Marcus Hill**, Foreman

Delivered in: ☑ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other _____

Length: _____ min

#	Printed name	Job title	Signature	Time
1	**Tomás Rivera**	Excavator operator		6:53 AM
2	**Dale Whitaker**	Pipelayer		6:55 AM
3	**Luis Ortega**	Laborer		6:56 AM
4	**Kenji Mori**	Laborer		6:58 AM
5	**Ana Beltrán**	Flagger		6:59 AM
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				

Each signature means the person heard this talk and had the chance to ask questions.

Questions and notes from the crew

Held at the trench at Sta 15+00 before the first bucket. Walked the crew through the 8x20 box's tabulated data plate and where the ladders go. Kenji asked whether the box has to touch the bottom: no more than 2 feet of wall below it, and only when the box is rated for the full depth.

Hazards the crew reported

Spoil pile at Sta 15+00 was about 18 inches from the edge. Moved back to 3 feet with the 320 before anyone entered. Tomás flagged that the north ladder was not tied off; tied before entry.

Follow-up

What

Who

By when

Talk leader

Marcus Hill
Foreman, Oct 6, 2026, 7:02 AM

Reviewed by

Scan to open the live record in 29Safety (sign-in required)