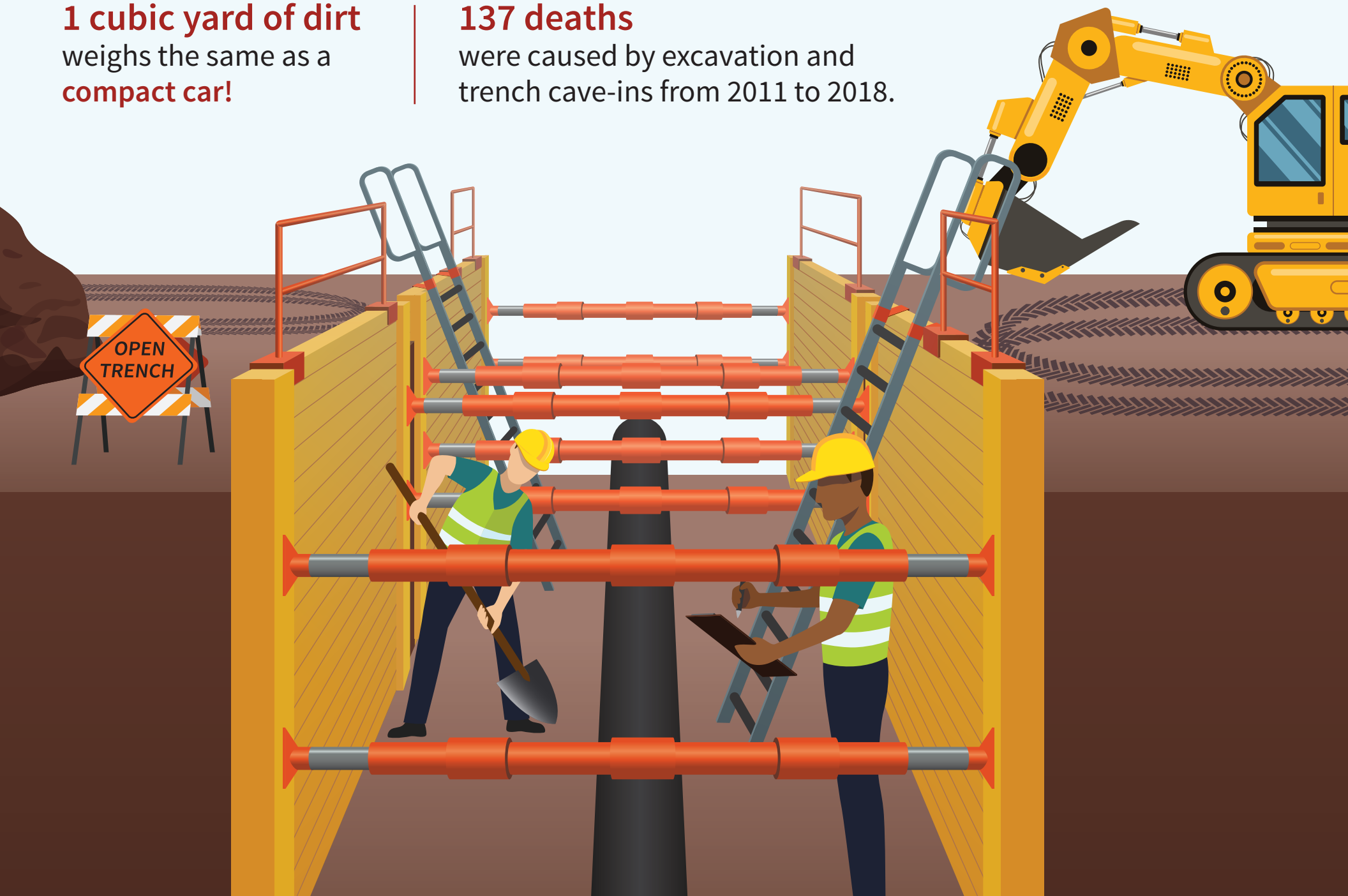


Trench Safety: Before You Dig It, Plan It!

| January 2022 |

1 cubic yard of dirt weighs the same as a **compact car!**

137 deaths were caused by excavation and trench cave-ins from 2011 to 2018.



BEFORE YOU DIG IT, PLAN IT!

- Assign and train a competent person.
- Call 811 to identify and mark underground utility lines.
- Dig a minimum 5 ft away from utility lines.
- Evaluate the soil to determine its stability.
- Plan the job layout to identify safe locations for spoil piles and heavy equipment routes.
- Before the job starts, if the trench will be 5 ft or deeper, set up a protective system. If the trench will be 20 ft or deeper, provide engineering protections.
- Have a traffic control plan and lane closure permits.
- Develop a trench emergency action plan.

WHEN YOU DIG IT, USE CAUTION!

- Have the competent person inspect the trench, nearby areas, and protective systems each day before the start of work, when conditions change throughout the shift, and after every rainstorm.
- Maintain signs, barriers, and protection around the trench.
- Keep all vehicles and machinery a safe distance from the excavation.
- Ensure ladders and exits are never more than 25 ft away from any worker in the trench.
- Remove workers from the excavation upon any evidence that could cause a cave-in.
- Monitor other types of trench-related hazards that can occur, such as falls from the edge, rigging hazards, or toxic and combustible gases, or oxygen deficient conditions.
- Enforce procedures to ensure that work in an unprotected trench does not occur.

IF YOU WORK IN A TRENCH:

Check the trench for problems before entering and never enter an unprotected trench.

Make sure there is safe entry and exit before entering.

When there is evidence of problems, exit the trench and inform the competent person.

Never assume there will be a warning before a cave-in, or that you will have time to get out.



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