



Weekly Safety Tip

**Trenching and
Excavating Hazards
OSHA Release**

Trade Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
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US Department of Labor urges safe practices during trench and excavation work

11 trench-related fatalities have been reported in 2025.

WASHINGTON – Following a recent series of trench collapses in the Midwest, the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) is urging workplaces to take the necessary steps to safeguard workers from well-known industry hazards that can be prevented when the required protections are used.

Soil can be heavy – **one cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a car** – so it is important to know and **test the type of soil at every worksite before work begins**.

Large amounts of rain can impact soil and significantly increase the weight, causing it to become more hazardous and likelier to collapse.

Never enter a trench unless you are trained to recognize the hazards and it has been inspected by a competent person.

Trench collapses, or cave-ins, can be prevented by taking the following steps:

- **SLOPE** or bench trench walls at an angle inclined away from the excavation.
- **SHORE** trench walls by installing aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement.
- **SHIELD** trench walls with trench boxes or other types of supports to prevent soil cave-ins.

Learn more about [trenching & excavation hazards and solutions](#) and [5 ways to stay safe in a trench](#).

Employers may contact their [local OSHA area office](#) for assistance or take advantage of OSHA's free and confidential [On-Site Consultation Program](#).



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OSHA Top 10 Penalties 2025 YTD



SAFETY & HEALTH SHARE

The Top 10 OSHA Penalties of 2025 so far this year

Noncompliance is expensive. As of 2025, OSHA charges up to \$16,550 per violation for serious or other-than-serious violations. For a failure to abate offense, it can fine companies \$16,550 daily after the abatement date. Willful or repeated offenses demonstrate deliberate disregard for employees' well-being, so they carry a maximum penalty of \$165,514 for each one.

Since this federal agency cannot shut down entities after repeated violations, the fines increase dramatically. It only requests temporary shutdowns from the court in rare instances where a hazard poses imminent danger.

OSHA penalties are not meant to be devastating, but the fines should hurt. Non-compliance carries real risk, even when violating other-than-serious standards. Say a retail store does not provide sufficiently safe clearances in aisles and doorways where employees use hand trucks. If a fire breaks out, they may be unable to reach the exit, resulting in avoidable fatalities.

The Largest Fines

The year isn't over, but it will be difficult to top the most significant penalties of 2025. These OSHA violation examples come from the regulator's [list of enforcement cases](#) with penalties exceeding \$40,000:

1. **Dollar Tree Inc.:** On June 10, 2025, OSHA fined Dollar Tree in Alexandria, Virginia, **\$284,225** for failing to keep exit routes clear and provide sufficient safe clearances, among other things. The four OSHA citations were repeat violations, considerably raising the maximum penalty threshold.
2. **Darling Ingredients Inc.:** A Darling Ingredients Inc. facility in Grapeland, Texas, was forced to pay **\$297,914** after OSHA issued fines for nine violations — eight of which were serious — in March 2025. The most expensive was 29 CFR 1910.1000, for which it was penalized \$165,514.
3. **Alloy Wheel Repair Specialists LLC:** In the same month, OSHA fined Alloy Wheel Repair Specialists of Bath, Pennsylvania, upwards of **\$312,089**. Since every violation was a repeat, the fee was much higher.
4. **Landmark Atlantic Holdings Company LLC:** Virginia-based Landmark Atlantic Holdings Company LLC was told to pay **\$317,450** on May 16, 2025, for willful prohibited activities under state law. Its two violations involved danger of contact with overhead power lines.
5. **Asset Roofing Company LLC:** As a roofing entity, Asset Roofing Company LLC should take working at heights seriously. However, it knowingly failed to provide fall restraint systems or fall protection work plans per Washington law. For these safety violations, OSHA issued a **\$322,646 penalty**.
6. **Luis Alberto-Reyna Avila:** Pennsylvania roofing contractor Luis Alberto-Reyna Avila was cited for exposing crews to workplace hazards and falls on March 17, 2025. Ten of its 12 OSHA citations were serious, bringing its total penalty to **\$478,088**.
7. **Resource Recycling Inc.:** In April, OSHA fined Resource Recycling Inc. **\$536,253** for 16 cited standards, 12 of which were serious. Some of the most expensive include 29 CFR 1910.28, 1910.147(c)(4) and 1910.147(c)(4), which cost \$132,411 each.
8. **The James Skinner LLC:** OSHA cited Nebraska-based bakery The James Skinner LLC for 19 fines totaling **\$576,439** on February 4, 2025. Sixteen were serious, two were willful and one was a repeat offense. The most expensive included 29 CFR 1910.28(b)(1) and 1910.303 (g)(2).
9. **The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company:** Goodyear is one of the two organizations ordered to pay over \$1 million in 2025. A facility in Danville, Virginia, received a **\$1.25 million fine** for 68 OSHA citations, 61 of which were serious.
10. **Daehan Solution Nevada LLC:** Out of all the OSHA penalties in 2025, the amount Daehan Solution Nevada LLC was forced to pay tops the list. For 56 OSHA citations — 10 serious and 40 repeat — the regulator fined it **\$4,137,482** on January 17, 2025.



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