

## **Fatal Alert**

On September 28, 2018, an employee and an excavator operator were installing a French drain water line feature from the house to a pond in the back yard of a residence. The employee was in a 12-foot deep 4-foot wide by 41-foot long trench with no cave-in protection. During the installation of the French Drain, the trench collapsed burying the employee. The excavator operator jumped into the trench to attempt rescue, but the trench collapsed further engulfing the excavator operator as well.

### **Significant factors**

- The employee did not have formal training with trenching work or trenching safety
- The trench did not have any cave-in protective systems like a trench box, or any shoring equipment

### **Recommendations**

- The employer should provide trenching safety training
- The employer should provide cave-in protection
- The employer should have trenches inspected by a competent person before employees enter