

To avoid fall injuries during normal entry and exit of a trench or excavation at your job site, ladders, stairways, or ramps are required. In some circumstances, when conditions in a trench or excavation become hazardous, survival may even depend on how quickly you or your coworkers can climb out.

Access and Egress Requirements:

- Employees who are required to be in trenches four feet deep or more, must be provided with a safe means of egress, such as ladders, steps, or ramps.
- Means of unobstructed egress must be positioned within 25 lateral feet of workers.
- Ladders should extend at least three feet above the landing and should be secured via non-mobile means (not a vehicle).
- Structural ramps that are used solely for access or egress from excavations must be designed by a **competent person**.
- Structural ramps used in place of steps must have a non-slip surface.
- When two or more components form a ramp or runway, they must be connected and of uniform thickness to prevent displacement.
- Earthen ramps should be used as a means of egress only if a worker can walk them in an upright position, and only if they've been evaluated by a **competent person**.

