

# SAFESTART HUMAN FACTORS CONFERENCE



**Joe Tantarelli**  
Implementation Specialist  
Consultant  
SafeStart

“Buried Alive” A Survivors Story

## Introduction & Overview

- Site Development (Earth Moving and Excavation) Construction for nearly 40 years. From shovel to General Manager.
- Safety and Production Training Specialist for Site Development and Municipal Infrastructure.
- Assistant Safety and VPPPA Director.
- Damage Prevention Manager.
- SafeStart Consultant and Implementation Specialist.

## Conference Speaker:

- Army Corps of Engineers Construction Roundtable,
- Kentucky's Governor's Safety and Health Conference,
- Ohio BWC Safety Expo,
- Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services,
- Georgia Safety Health and Environmental Conference,
- Keynote and Breakout Sessions at ASSE Conferences,
- National Safety Council Conference,
- VPPPA Conference
- IDOT Safety Conferences
- Numerous Company and Safety Council Safety Day Conferences in North America.

# BURIED ALIVE

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

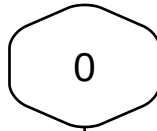
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*Welcome!*

by

JOE  
TANTARELLI





# Let's Go Back In Time

Way back.

**OK. Not quite that far back!**

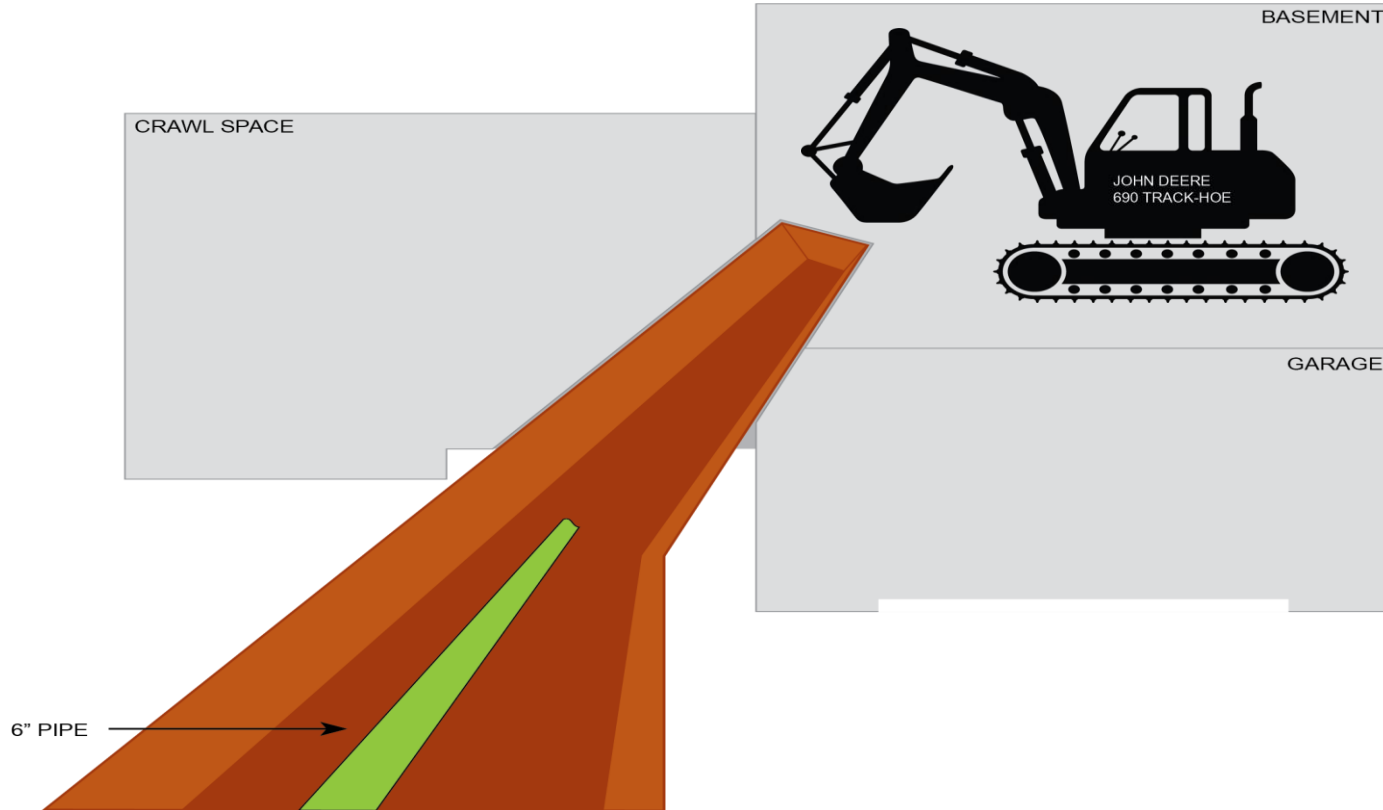


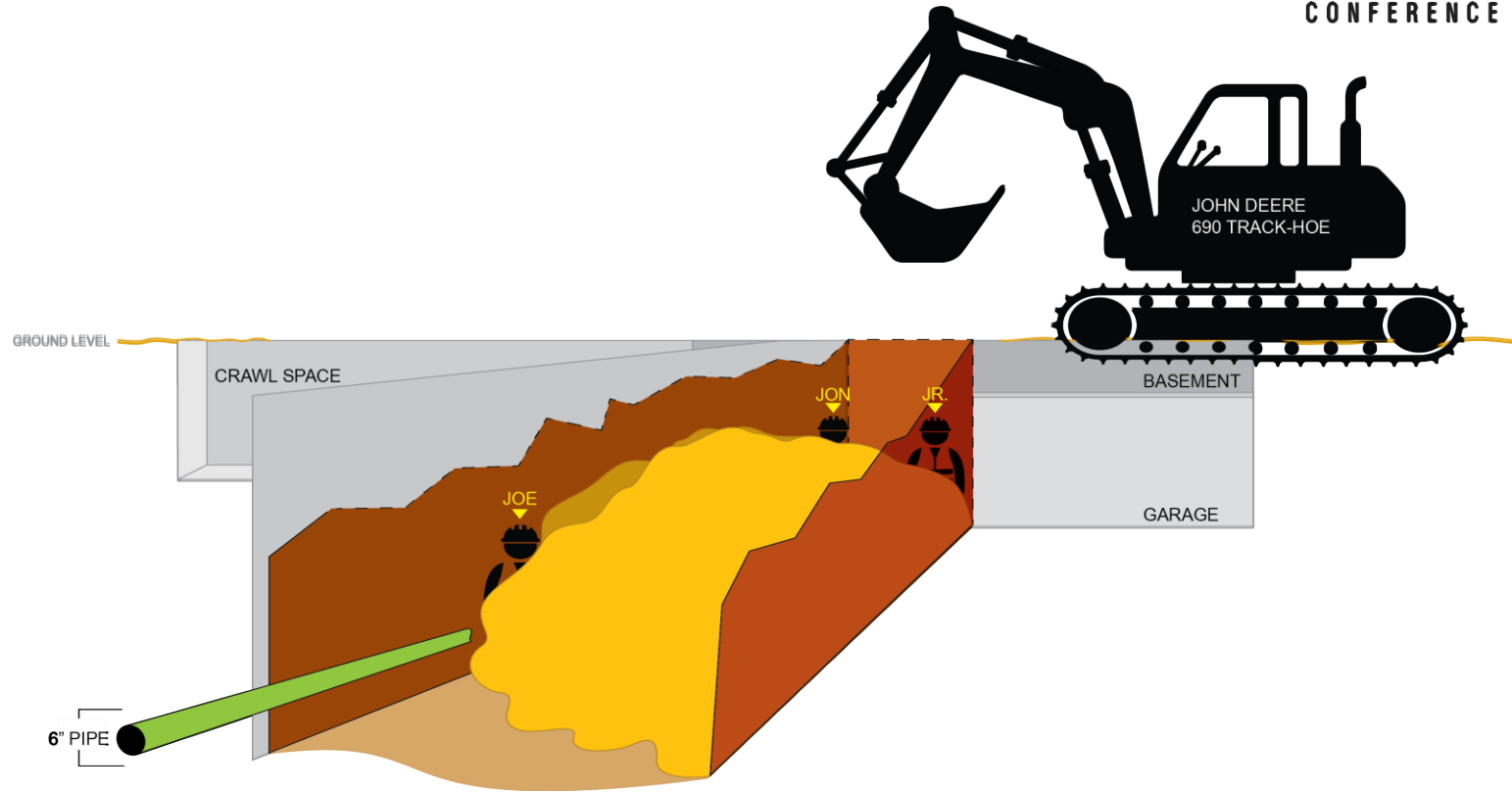
1983

June  
6th

That's more like it.









# When Disaster Strikes

It's in this moment when you realize that every second matters  
when saving someone's life...

# Is When It's Already Too Late

...and in that same moment you realize that even a single second is too late  
to try and save them.

Where it all  
began

MY FAMILY 1983



Many  
years  
later

MY FAMILY 2010



# Complacency in the Workplace

By Gary A. Higbee



# Awareness/Complacency Continuum

**Awareness:** risk consciousness while driving, working, walking, biking, etc.

**First Stage of Complacency:** no longer pre-occupied with the risk so your mind can wander



**MULTI - TASKING**

Time



## THE 4 STATES



**RUSHING**



**FRUSTRATION**



**FATIGUE**



**COMPLACENCY**



## THE 4 ERRORS



EYES NOT ON TASK  
MIND NOT ON TASK  
LINE-OF-FIRE



BALANCE, TRACTION, GRIP

# My Story

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*These four states...*

- ☒ Rushing
- ☒ Frustration
- ☒ Fatigue
- ☒ Complacency

*can cause or contribute to  
these critical errors...*

- ☒ Eyes not on Task
- ☒ Mind not on Task
- ☒ Line-of-Fire
- ☐ Balance/Traction/Grip

*...which increase the  
risk of injury.*

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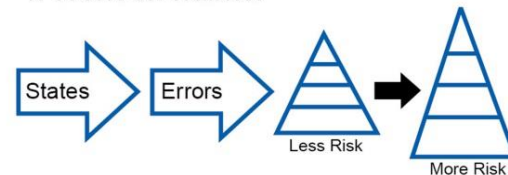
#2-CARD-TECH  
Printed in Canada

# My Story



## Critical Error Reduction Techniques (CERT)

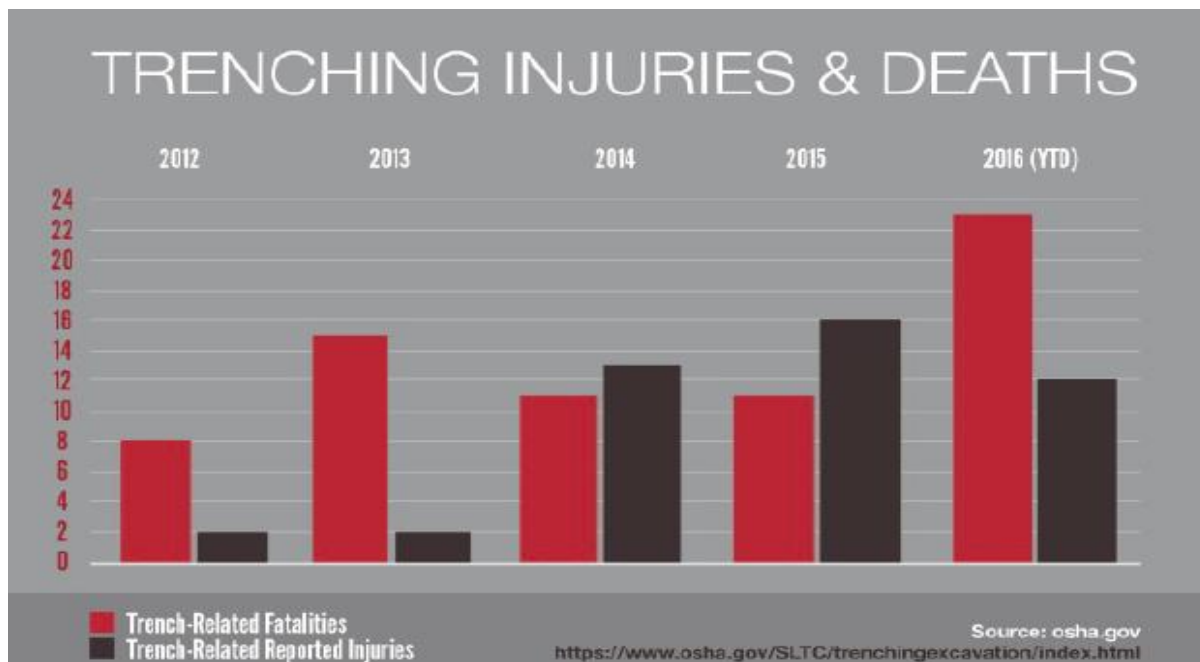
- ✓ 1. Self-trigger on the state (or amount of hazardous energy) so you don't make a critical error.
- ✓ 2. Analyze close calls and small errors (to prevent agonizing over big ones).
- 3. Look at others for the patterns that increase the risk of injury.
- ✓ 4. Work on habits.



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#2-CARD-TECH  
Printed in Canada

Ohio worker's death highlights grim 2016 national stat:  
trench collapse fatalities have more than doubled  
*OSHA cites 33-year-old man's employer for willful, serious safety violations*



November 17, 2016

**Ohio worker's death highlights grim 2016 national stat:  
trench collapse fatalities have more than doubled  
OSHA cites 33-year-old man's employer for willful, serious safety violations**

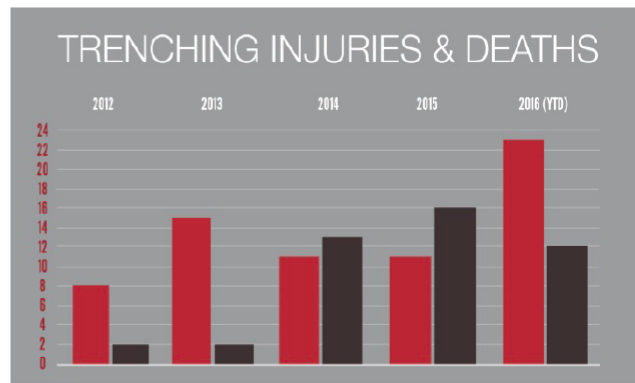
**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Ohio** - OSHA cited an Ohio company after a 33-year-old employee was crushed to death in June 2016 as he was digging soil out of the 12-foot trench in Washington Township, when the trench walls around him collapsed - burying him in thousands of pounds of dirt. Rescue workers recovered his body a few hours later.

He is one of 23 workers killed, and 12 others who reported injuries in trench collapses in 2016. Trench collapses are rarely survivable. One cubic yard of soil can weigh up to 3,000 lbs. - the weight of a small automobile - giving a worker in a trench little chance of survival when walls of soil collapse.

"Trench deaths have more than doubled nationwide since last year - an alarming and unacceptable trend that must be halted," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "There is no excuse. These fatalities are completely preventable by complying with OSHA standards that every construction contractor should know."

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration found his employer, KRW Plumbing LLC, did not provide trench cave-in protection for its employees. OSHA cited the company for two willful and two serious safety violations on Nov. 8, 2016, after the agency completed its investigation into the June 15, 2016, death and a subsequent investigation opened in October 2016.

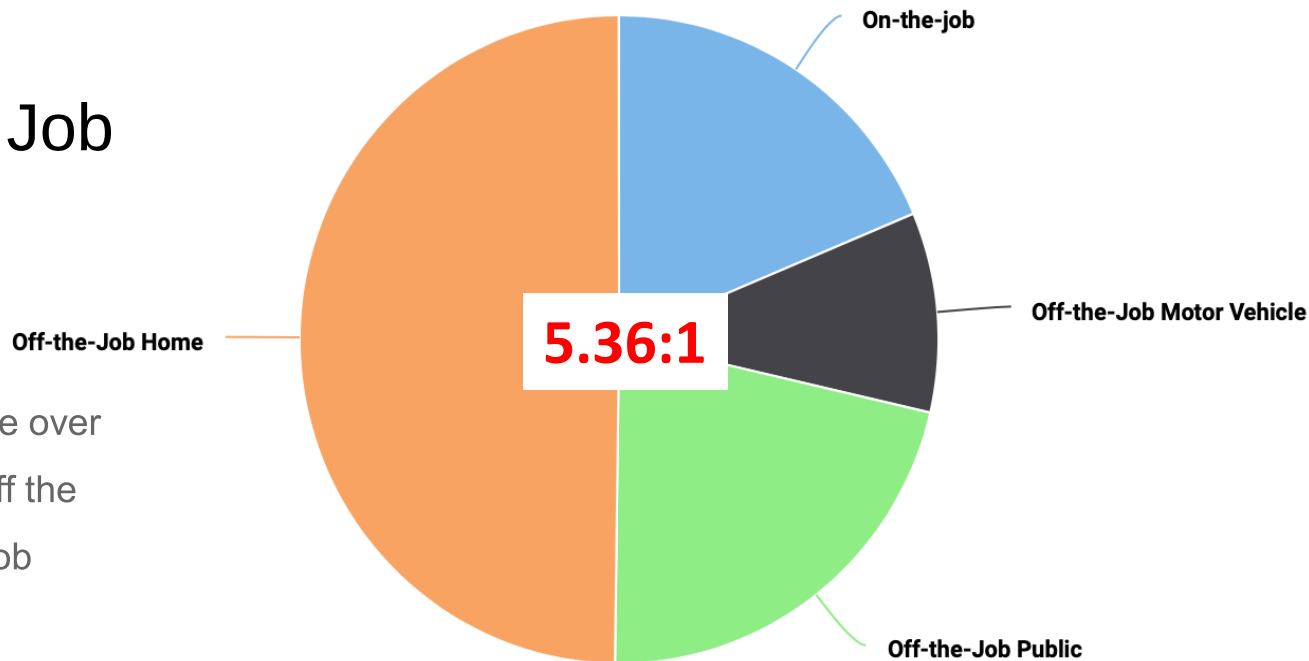
The employee was part of a crew installing a sewer line at a residential home



***Do you think this was his first encounter with a trench collapse?***

## Workers' on- and off-the-job injuries, United States, 2017

Total: 24,100,000



## Injury Off the Job VS On the Job

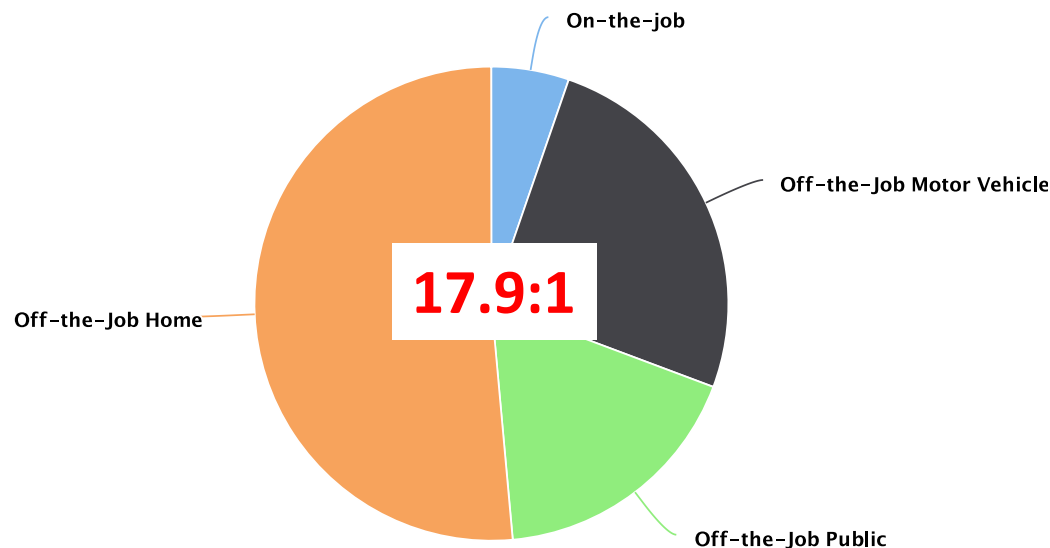
Unfortunately, there are over  
**Five times** as many off the  
job injuries as on the job  
injuries

# Off the Job VS On the Job

And there are nearly **18 times**  
as many off the job fatalities as  
on the job fatalities

Workers' on- and off-the-job deaths, United States, 2017

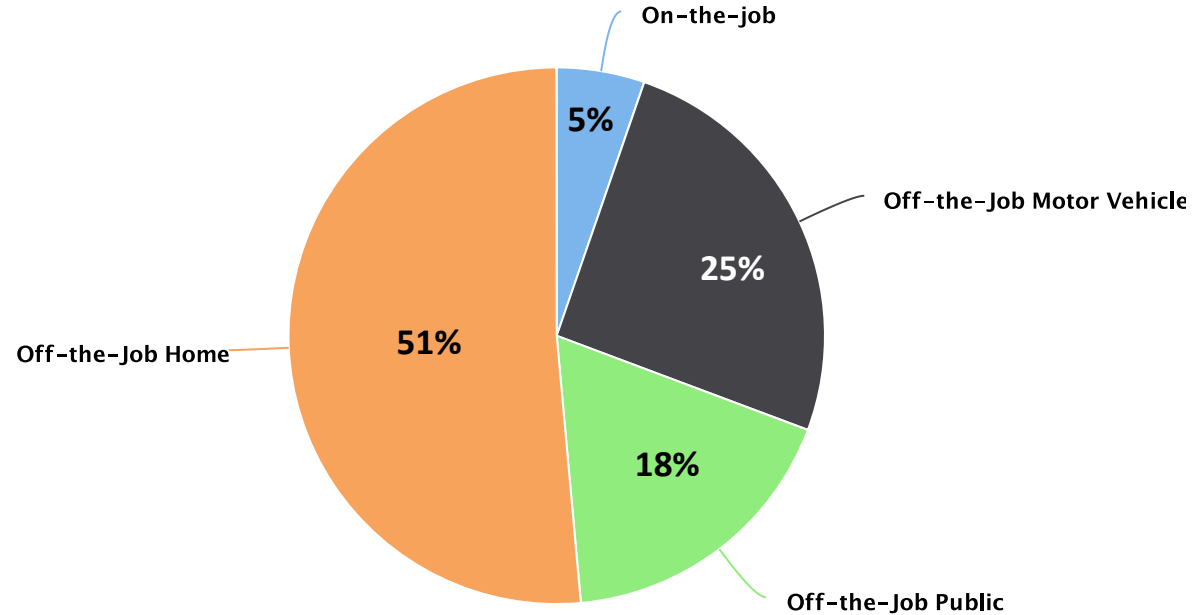
Total: 83,414



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## Workers' on- and off-the-job deaths, United States, 2017

Total: 83,414



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BEST OF ALL  
My  
Grandchildren



**GRANDPARENTS BE LIKE**



**ONE LITTLE SNACK  
BEFORE YOU GO HOME**

Happy Survivor!



♪♪ Clap Along if You Know What Happiness is to You! ♪♪

THANKS FOR  
Your Participation!