



Concrete Placing Pumps

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Two serious accidents, one fatal, in Sydney in June 1994 involving concrete placing boom pumps highlighted the need to follow the safety recommendations in the WorkCover Authority's Codes of Practice on Pumping Concrete and Construction and Testing of Concrete Pumps.

The first accident occurred when a boom pump operator stood on the hopper grate of his machine and his leg slipped through the grate. His leg became entangled in the auger of the pump and his left leg was severed below the knee.

Investigation revealed the hopper grate bars at each end of the grate were wider than the 70mm recommended by WorkCover Codes of Practice.

WorkCover recommends that all pump operators should:

1. **never** stand on the hopper grate of concrete placing pumps.
2. **always** ensure the grate complies with the recommendations of the WorkCover Authority.
3. **always** ensure that grates are in good condition and not unduly worn or damaged.

The second accident involved the collapse of the boom of a concrete placing boom pump, which hit the pump line operator on the head and inflicted fatal injuries.

Investigation revealed that a failure of the pedestal-to-hydraulic ram connection caused the boom to collapse.

Recommendations

- a regular and thorough maintenance program be undertaken by pump owners and operators in accordance with Workcover's codes of practice.
- operators and concreters should avoid standing or working under the elevated boom as much as possible.
- when working on a construction site, workers should always remember to wear head protection.

Further information

For further information contact your local WorkCover office or the Information Centre on **13 10 50**.

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