



Injuries from Concrete Pumping

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A number of injuries to concrete mixer drivers caused by pump lines and couplings bursting have occurred recently. The incidents happened while the drivers were working near pump lines.

Background

Concrete pumps are a pressurised materials mover. The risk to injury increases when there is a blockage in the system. As the pressure increases, line blow-out can occur without warning, particularly if the pump lines are not up to standard.

This Safety Alert, and the supplementary Safety Guide, are issued to emphasise the risks to persons, especially concrete delivery drivers working near concrete pumping operations, and to provide information on precautions that should be taken.

There are specific safety precautions to be followed by concrete pump operators. They are covered in the WorkCover NSW *Code of practice: Pumping concrete*. For equipment safety the WorkCover NSW *Code of practice: Construction and testing of concrete pumps* should be followed.

Recommendations

The following actions should be taken by all persons working near concrete pumping operations:

- Stand clear of pump lines and couplings where practicable
- mixer drivers should report any safety problems to the pump operator or foreman for action and should not discharge concrete into suspect pumps
- follow the precautions recommended in the supplementary Safety Guide
- the pump operator must stop pump operation if a blockage or leak cannot be fixed immediately.

Further information

For further advice, contact Michael Chan-Sew 4321 5597 or call WorkCover's Information Centre on **13 10 50**.

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