

Safety Flash

Incident with recordable injury

Incident: An associate was spraying bond breaker on concrete forms for tilt-up panels. The forms contained no rebar or embeds. The associate finished spraying one area and stepped over the 11¼-inch-high form while carrying the spray wand from the barrel sprayer. As he stepped onto the next panel, he slipped on a wet spot, lost his balance and fell, striking his shoulder on the form.



Possible Contributing Factors:

- The concrete used as the face form for the panels was “burned” to provide a smooth finish, with a shiny appearance that made it hard to tell that the bond breaker applied earlier was not completely dry.
- The associate was holding the spray wand in both hands, lost his balance and could not catch himself as he stepped onto the wet area.
- Bond breaker from previous panels was on the bottom of his shoes.
- The associate thought the previously applied bond breaker was dry and did not expect the surface to be slippery.

Primary contributing factors:

- The concrete used as the face form for the panels was “burned” to provide a smooth finish, with a shiny appearance that made it hard to tell that the bond breaker applied earlier was not completely dry.

Possible solutions:

- Be aware of slip hazards created by bond breakers and floor finishes.
- Discuss how to walk on slippery surfaces (snow, ice, rain and chemicals).
- Sequence work to avoid stepping on wet surfaces.

Action plan:

- Jobsite pre-task plans will review slip hazards as well as how to walk on slippery surfaces due to chemicals and weather.
- A toolbox talk on walking safely on slippery surfaces is being distributed at the weekly safety meeting.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Chad Metzger, Lima, 419/279-5348 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.