

Safety Flash

Incident with recordable injury

Incident: An associate was monitoring a concrete pour and signaled the driver to stop the flow. He had been standing with one leg against the chute and then turned to speak with coworkers, putting his back to the chute. The driver apparently did not stop the flow of concrete, which piled up and entered the back of the associate's rubber boots. The associate sustained concrete burns on both calves. He reported the incident two days later after he developed a rash, swelling and pain, and required off-site medical treatment and medication.

Possible Contributing Factors:

- The associate did not tape the top of his boots closed.
- The associate knew concrete was in his boots but worked another six hours without cleaning off his skin, clothes and boots.
- The experimental mix design used new chemical additives and was a "hot mix," which was not covered in the pre-task plan.
- The loose, 8-inch slump flowed easily.
- The driver either did not see or did not follow the signal to stop the flow of concrete.
- The associate was not aware that he was at the end of the chute when he turned.

Primary Contributing Factors:

- The associate was not aware that he was at the end of the chute when he turned.
- The associate knew concrete was in his boots but worked another six hours without stopping to clean off his skin, clothes and boots.

Possible Solutions:

- Consider securing the top of boots or wearing rain pants when working with "hot" concrete mix designs or high-slump concrete.
- Continue to wear proper PPE, including gloves and eye/face protection.
- Make wash stations with water, soap, towels and eyewash available at all pours.

Action Plan:

- Associates are required to tape boots closed on pours with the new quick-setting mix design.
- Pre-task planning will include the hazards of wet concrete, required PPE, and the need to wash off concrete completely when it gets on skin or clothing.
- All associates will be reminded to report incidents immediately so they will receive appropriate medical care in a timely manner.
- Field Operations will issue a memo reminding supervisors to provide wash stations with water, soap, paper towels and eyewash during concrete pours and masonry work.

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.