



Concrete Pumping Safety Talk

When done right, concrete pumping is a clean, controlled, and safe process. When done wrong, it can result in chemical burns, equipment failures, falls, injuries, disabilities, or even fatalities.

Wet concrete is corrosive and can burn your skin or eyes on contact.

Equipment failures, like faulty outriggers or leaking hydraulics, can lead to tip-overs, crush injuries, or system collapse. Additionally, when a **high-pressure hose** bursts or disconnects, it can whip violently, moving with considerable momentum and putting everyone nearby at risk.

Good To Know

1. Keep Your Distance from the Delivery Hose

- Never stand near a pressurized hose.
- If the hose bursts or whips, anyone in the path can be severely injured.
- Give it room, especially during pump starts or when clearing blockages.

2. Wear the Right PPE, Every Time

This isn't optional:

- Hard hat
- Eye protection
- Gloves and long sleeves
- Steel-toed boots
- High-visibility clothing
- Respiratory and hearing protection when needed

3. Stay Out of the Danger Zone

- Don't walk into the pump zone while equipment is running.
- Always stay where the operator or signal person can see you.
- Keep clear of booms and pipelines while they're in motion.

4. Check the Ground and Outriggers

- Pumps must sit on stable, level ground.
- Outriggers must be deployed fully and properly supported with pads or spreaders.
- **Always check that outrigger pins are properly pinned and locked before traveling.**
- Don't go near the pumps unless they're secured and the operator confirms it's safe.

5. Know the Signal System



- Only respond to signals from the designated signaller, not random shouts or gestures.
- If you're the one signaling, make sure your radio or hand signals are clear and confirmed by the operator.

6. Deal Correctly with Blockages

- Only trained workers should clear blockages.
- Do not open a blocked pipe until pressure is fully released.
- The pump must be locked out before you even think about touching it.

7. Say Something Immediately If You Spot Mechanical Issues

- If you notice that the hose is worn, any leaks or faulty clamps, or hear strange noises, stop the job and alert your supervisor. A small issue can quickly become a serious failure.

If Something Goes Wrong

- Stop work immediately.
- Warn others and clear the area.
- Contact a supervisor or safety lead.
- Stay out of danger until it's confirmed safe to return.

Summary

Concrete pumping can be safe, but only when everyone understands the risks and sticks to safe practices:

- Keep your distance from pressurized hoses.
- Wear all the proper PPE.
- Only trust designated signallers.
- Always work on stable ground with outriggers in place.
- Report hazards, follow signals, and stop if anything seems off.

Discussion Points:

1. *Have you seen a concrete delivery line disconnect or hose whip? What happened?*
2. *What steps would you take if you spotted a hydraulic leak or damaged hose?*