

Concrete Hazards and Awareness

Concrete is one of the most frequently used building materials in construction and poses many hazards to workers. Safety issues exist in all phases of concrete use, whether workers are working with dry concrete or wet concrete. Awareness of concrete hazards is an important step to help workers stay safe and healthy.

Dry Concrete Hazards

Exposure to cement dust can irritate eyes, nose, throat and the upper respiratory system. Skin contact may result in moderate irritation to thickening or cracking of skin to severe skin damage from chemical burns.

Exposure to silica that is contained in the dust can lead to lung injuries including silicosis and lung cancer.

Some solutions to combat these hazards include:

- Rinse eyes with water if they come into contact with cement dust and seek medical attention if needed.
- Use soap and water to wash off dust to avoid skin damage.
- Wear N-95 rated respirators to help minimize inhalation of cement dust.
- Eat and drink only in dust-free areas to avoid ingesting cement dust.

Tasks that can create cement dust include breaking, drilling, cutting, and chipping concrete. When performing these tasks, always wear the proper PPE, which may include respirators, hard hats, gloves, hearing protection, safety-toe boots, and eye and face protection.

Wet Concrete Hazards

When handling and pouring wet concrete, extreme caution must be taken. Wet concrete can cause severe skin irritation and depending on exposure, can result in first-, second-, or third-degree chemical burns. The following are safe practices that should be utilized when handling wet concrete

- Wear alkali-resistant gloves, coveralls with long sleeves and full-length pants, waterproof boots, and eye protection.
- Wash contaminated skin areas with cold, running water as soon as possible.
- Rinse eyes splashed with wet concrete with water for at least 15 minutes and seek any needed medical treatment.

Other Hazards

Other hazards that can come from handling concrete include poor ergonomics due to awkward working positions, improper lifting techniques, and strains and sprains from repetitive actions. Helpful methods to control these hazards can include:

- Utilize tools or equipment designed to reduce the burden on workers.
- Let mechanical equipment place concrete when possible.
- Avoid lifting heaving objects individually and use team lifts when needed.
- Avoid working in awkward postures for long periods of time.

Additional Topics:

Notes:

Meeting Date:

Conducted By:

Attended By:

PRINT

SIGN
