

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____

Date _____

CONCRETE SAFETY

Concrete is the foundation of the construction industry. You use it on nearly every construction project: bridges, parking decks, commercial buildings, residential pads, foundations and footings, dams; and to pave highways, driveways, and sidewalks. Because concrete is so common, you should be aware of the hazards it may pose to your safety and health.

Concrete is heavy. It weighs 150 pounds per cubic foot. Think of it in comparison to water, which weighs 62.4 pounds per cubic foot. The weight of concrete can itself present hazards for your back when you mix it or move it. Always use proper lifting techniques to prevent muscle strains and back injuries. When mixing concrete, don't overexert yourself. Make sure you only move concrete to surfaces that are strong enough to support its weight.

Concrete is a composite material that essentially consists of a binding medium containing particles or fragments of aggregate. In Portland cement concrete, the binder is a mixture of Portland cement and water. Chemicals in concrete can cause severe chemical burns. Protect your eyes from any splashing concrete by wearing safety glasses or goggles. If you get concrete in your eyes, flush them out immediately at an eyewash station for 15 minutes and seek professional medical attention. When cutting or

chipping concrete, wear eye protection to prevent eye injuries from flying particles and a dust mask or respirator as necessary. Use wet cutting whenever possible to avoid the hazards and mess caused by the dust.

To protect your skin, you should wear waterproof gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, and long pants. If you are required to stand in concrete while it is being placed, screeded, or floated, you should wear rubber boots high enough to prevent concrete from getting into them. If any part of your skin comes in contact with concrete, remove gloves, boots, or clothing; and wash your skin thoroughly with soap and water. Put on clean and dry socks, shoes, and clothes.

You should also follow safe work practices anytime you work with equipment used to handle concrete. Never place your hands or fingers in pinch points when working around concrete chutes on the mixer truck. One wrong move and the drop of the chute will amputate your finger in a split second. When placing concrete using a boom truck or concrete pump, make sure the swing area is clear of overhead power lines. Never swing a concrete bucket over another person and don't work under concrete buckets while they are being raised or lowered into position.

SAFETY REMINDER

**When cutting, grinding, or sandblasting concrete,
make sure you wear the appropriate respirator
and hearing protection.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____

Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.