

WORKING SAFELY with Wet Concrete

WHEN TO TAKE CARE

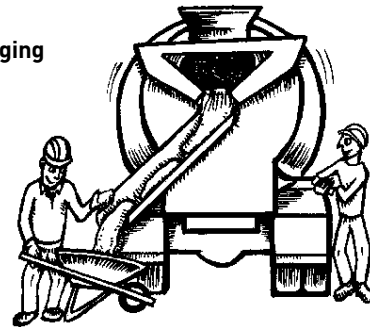
Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials. Anyone who uses concrete or is responsible for managing or supervising its use should be aware that it may be a hazard. Professional advice should be obtained for appropriate risk management strategies.

SOME EXAMPLES OF EXPOSURE:

■ Placing

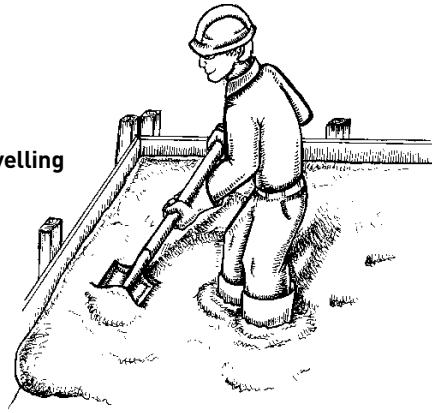


■ Discharging

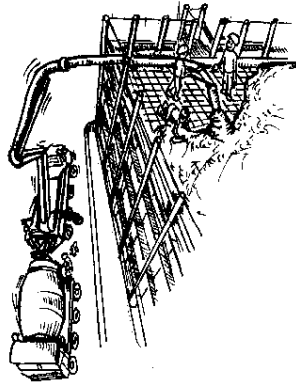


ANYONE who uses concrete or is responsible for managing or supervising its use should be aware that it may be a hazard.

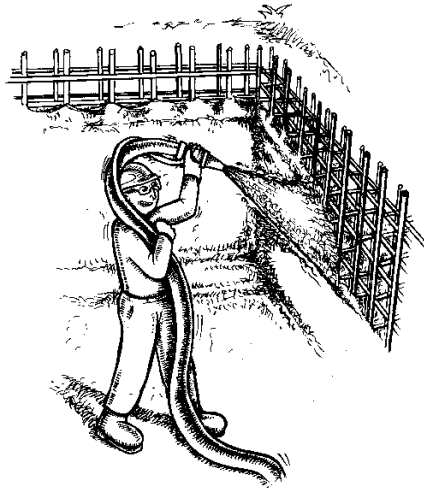
■ Shovelling



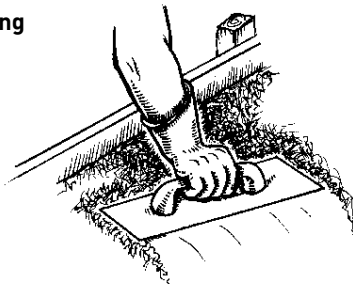
■ Pumping



■ Spraying



■ Trowelling



SKIN AND EYE CONDITIONS

Contact with concrete can cause irritation to the skin and eyes resulting in skin conditions such as cement burns, cement dermatitis and dry skin or irritation to the eyes.

Cement Burns

If freshly mixed concrete comes into contact with your skin or eyes eg. by falling into your boots or gloves, or by splashing, serious skin or eye burns can occur.

Dermatitis

Irritant or contact dermatitis can result from the combination of wetness, chemical corrosiveness and abrasiveness of concrete. Allergic dermatitis can result when operators become sensitised to the chromium salts in cement or to some other additives.

HOW TO TAKE CARE

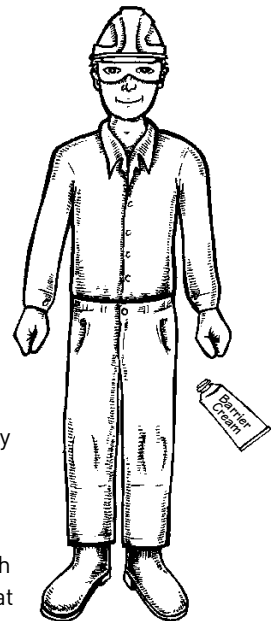
Safe work practices must always be employed to protect yourself and others from any hazards caused by working with wet concrete.

Skin and Eye Protection

Personal Protective Equipment must be provided to protect skin and eyes. PPE must comply with Australian Standards:

- Goggles
- Gloves
- Long sleeves
- Long pants
- Safety rubber boots
- Barrier creams.

Clothes should be worn to avoid traps for fresh concrete to fall into ie sleeves over gloves, trouser legs over boots.



First Aid

- If concrete gets onto your skin, immediately flush skin with cool, clean water.
- Eye contamination should be flushed with cool, clean water for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical advice if irritation persists.

OTHER HAZARDS

What other hazards can you be exposed to when working with wet concrete?

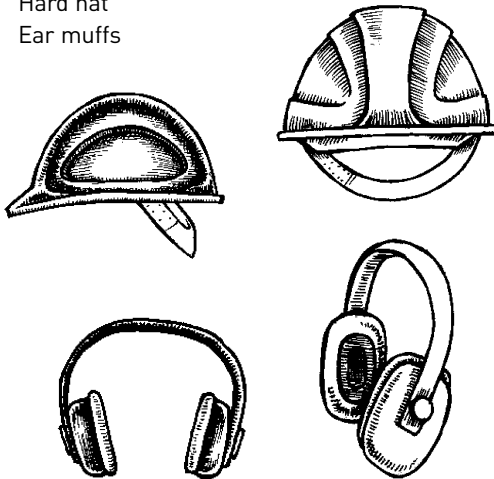
- Manual handling
- Particles in the eyes eg. blow back caused by airlock in concrete pump
- Noise
- Dust eg. opening bags of cement or dry concrete mix
- Falling objects on head and feet
- Use of cleaning materials eg acids.

Preventing Harm From Other Hazards



■ **Noise and Falling Objects**

Hard hat
Ear muffs



■ **Particles in the Eyes and Cleaning Materials**

See PPE for skin and eye protection above.

■ **Dust**

See CCAA datasheet *Working Safely with Dry Concrete Materials*.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- **Product MSDS**
- **Your local State Health and Safety Authority**

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