



Concrete pumping operations in the construction industry - a risk management approach

The purpose of this Alert is to make builders and concrete pump operators aware of the need to manage risks if they operate or contract the operation of a concrete pump on a construction site.

Background

Examples of recent incidents include:

1. Drivers of concrete agitators being hit by concrete under pressure following pipe or coupling failure.
2. Hands being caught in concrete pump hopper paddles.
3. Concrete boom pump making contact with overhead powerlines.
4. Damage to vehicle and property through operation of concrete boom pump.



Two examples of pipe failure



Contributing factors

The main factor causing drivers to be hit appears to be a lack of maintenance of equipment leading to failure of piping near the pump hopper, a recognised high wear area.

Lack of operator training, inadequate instruction and supervision are factors in other incidents.

Action required

The employer or person in control of the workplace must ensure all vehicle mounted concrete boom pump operators hold a High Risk Work Licence.

Workers must be trained in using safe work procedures and be adequately supervised.

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The employer should :

- ensure all metal pipelines, reducers and bends are ultrasonically tested regularly and maintenance records kept.
- fit all couplings and clamps with safety pins.
- ensure the hopper is fitted with a secured hopper grate, or that the hopper grate is interlocked with an emergency stop.

A risk assessment on all tasks must be done by the employer or person in control of the workplace.

Maintain power line clearance as required by regulation 3.64 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe on 1300 307 877 or email safety@commerce.wa.gov.au.

Contact the Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia (WA) website www.ccaa.com.au

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Regional Offices