

# Safety and health alert

## 02/95 Fatal accident - working with machinery

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### Incident

A 39 year old man received multiple fatal injuries when he became trapped in a medium sized concrete mixer.

The incident occurred following a concrete pour. The employee, who was working alone at a precast concrete yard, was undertaking cleaning operations whilst the concrete mixer was running.

Evidence suggests the worker was either cleaning concrete deposits from the side of the mixer or attempting to retrieve a hammer or screwdriver while the mixer was still operating. He then either overbalanced or was caught by the blades and dragged into the mixer.

The worker was unable to free himself from the mixer. Because he was working alone there was a delay in receiving assistance from workers at an adjoining premise who eventually stopped the machine.

### Factors

1. The employee was working alone.
2. Cleaning operations were undertaken while the machinery was still operating.
3. A clearly marked emergency stop button at the operator's work station was not provided.
4. There was a lack of understanding within the workplace of the risks associated with working alone on moving machinery.

### Recommendations

1. Identify hazards and risks associated with persons working alone.
2. Ensure emergency and other procedures are in place for workers who may be required to work alone.
3. Ensure adequate stop buttons are provided, clearly marked and positioned within easy reach of the operator.
4. Ensure adequate training and supervision is provided to operators.
5. Implement control measures to reduce risk where hazards cannot be eliminated.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

