

PLAYING IT SAFE CONSTRUCTION

Concrete Safety

Precautions for working with cement

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports that 28,000 concrete manufacturing workers suffer injuries and illnesses on the job each year. This is due to the many hazards surrounding concrete handling and machine usage. To minimize your risk of injury, remember these safety tips:

- Study and follow all confined space procedures when cleaning and working in the mixer drums, hoppers and tanks.
- Exercise extreme caution when operating near the blades and sloping slides.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce your risk of injury in the case that objects were to fly or fall around you.
- Perform a safety check on all vehicles to make sure they are in good working order at the beginning of each shift.
- Use lockout/tagout procedures to de-energize conveyors and other machinery before attempting to free jams.
- Secure chutes and hatches to reduce injuries from swinging parts.
- Be sure that form work, casting and stressing operations are adequately

braced and checked to avoid sudden release of materials.

- Double check rigging to protect against falling objects and materials during hoisting and stacking procedures.
- Never walk or work under overhead loads.

Silica and Your Lungs

A component of concrete called silica poses an additional hazard to your health. Silica is very damaging to your lungs and can cause severe illness and even death.

To prevent illness, avoid exposure to cement dust and wet cement. Wear gloves, boots, goggles and HEPA-filtered respirators to minimize contact with your eyes and skin.

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by **Peabody Insurance Agency**.

Working with cement can be taxing on your body. Be mindful of your movements when using machines that vibrate your entire body.

