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Talk No: 66	Title: Safety Awareness – Placing Concrete
Preparation : Concrete and cement powder can cause damage to exposed skin and eyes. - Make sensible use of the protective clothing and equipment available. - Where it is necessary to stand in wet concrete i.e. bases, floors, bridge decks – and then rubber boots must be worn. - Hands must be protected by the use of appropriate gloves at all times when handling concrete – grout – or dry cement. - Consider what you are doing – it may be necessary to wear overalls or wet weather clothing to prevent splashes to the arms and legs. - If concrete or dry cement gets inside rubber boots or other footwear stop what you are doing and remove it immediately and clean or remove any contaminated clothing. Splashes to exposed skin should be washed off as soon as possible. - Protect your eyes – in some cases it may be necessary to wear goggles or visors. If your eyes are affected by concrete or cement, irrigate them immediately (swill out with plenty of water) and report to a First Aid Worker and if in any doubt, seek medical advice. - Make sure the area to be worked is safe and properly prepared i.e.: - Access platforms properly decked out. - Ladders securely tied. - Rebar boarded to prevent tripping (When working on bridge decks etc.) - If carnage is to be used a certificated Banks-man must be in attendance. - The skip and chain must be properly maintained. - Do not allow loose chain hooks to swing about, only have the single skip chain on the crane hook. - Only allow the Banks-man to signal the crane operator. - If a concrete pump is to be used, it is important that everyone in the gang knows what has job is. THE CONCRETE POUR Whether you are using concrete skips or a concrete pump, one of the main hazards is reversing concrete mixers. They must be properly controlled at all times. An associated hazard is getting hands and fingers damaged by the mixer chutes or by trapping between the chute and skip or pump. A further hazard is getting fingers trapped by the skip handle when it is being lowered to the ground.	

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USING CRANE AND SKIP

Do not stand under any suspended load.

Take care not to get the skip caught in rebar or scaffolding – if you need a guide rope on the skip then use one.

Don't pull or push the skip, let the crane position it.

Ensure everyone is clear before signaling the crane operator to lift the empty skip clear.

USING A CONCRETE PUMP

If the pump is to be operated by us, the operator must be fully trained and certificated. **No other person must touch any of the controls.**

If mounted pump is used, an appointed banks-man should direct the placing of the boom where appropriate.

The person directing the hose end must be suitably clad; this would normally be impervious jacket and trousers (wet wear). Where the concrete is splashing then eye protection must be worn by any person likely to be affected.

Great care must be taken when cleaning the line (blowing out). Where applicable, the end of the pipeline must be tied and a device to catch the ball must be fitted to the pipe end. This is not usually necessary when using lorry mounted boom pumps but whatever method of cleaning the line is used, care must be taken to ensure the safety of all on site.

GENERAL

If it is necessary for some of the gang to go into wall shutters, good access and egress points must be established and maintained.

A Safe Method of Work for placing the concrete must be established i.e. the use of a flexible pump line or a tremy pipe.

Concrete must not be discharged by skin near men working below.

Finally, if any working practice appears to be unsafe, bring it to the attention of a Supervisor **immediately.**

Notes: